るろに剣心

けんしん

―明治剣客浪漫譚―

めいじけんかくろまんたん

和月伸宏

和月伸宏

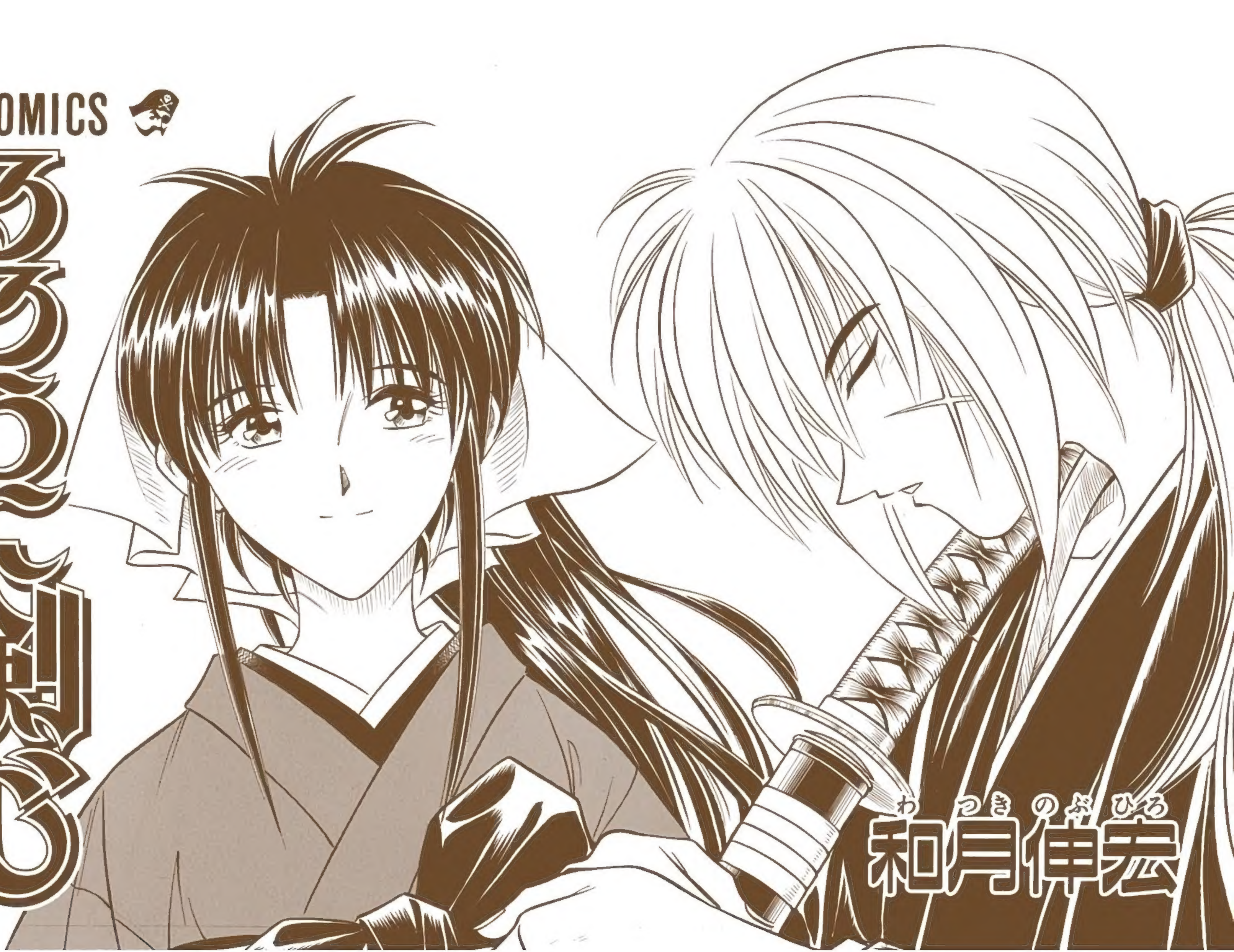
★この作品はフィクションです。実在の人物・団体・事件などには、いっさい関係ありません。著者カラー原画に加え、著者の原画をもとに集英社でデジタル彩色を行った特別編集版です。

JUMP COMICS

るろうに剣心

—明治剣客浪漫譚—

巻之十六　摂理



和月伸宏

登場人物紹介

緋村剣心（人斬り抜刀斎）

相楽左之助

斎藤一

佐渡島方治

瀬田宗次郎

駒形由美

志々雄真実

るろうに剣心

逆刃刀を腰に下げ、不殺を誓う流浪人・緋村剣心

――彼こそは新時代・明治を切り拓いた維新志士の中で、最強無比の伝説をもつ「人斬り抜刀斎」であった。

天下の覇権を狙う、「人斬り抜刀斎」の後継者・志々雄真実の野望を阻止するため、剣心は京都に旅立つ。

その後を追い、薫と弥彦、左之助、剣心の命を狙う蒼紫が西に向かった。蒼紫を慕う少女・操と道連れになった剣心は、道中、志々雄の配下で十本刀〝天剣〟の宗次郎と闘い、逆刃刀を折られてしまう。京都で逆刃刀・真打を譲り受け、かつての師、現・飛天御剣流継承者「比古清十郎」を訪ねる剣心。生と死の間の修行で奥義「天翔龍閃」を会得した剣心は、左之助、斎藤と合流。志々雄一派による京都大火、東京砲撃計画を阻止、決着は志々雄のアジトにつける事に…。

アジトにいる蒼紫を必ず連れて帰る事を操と約束し、剣心は決戦の場へと向かった。決闘の一番手・〝明王〟の安慈とは因縁のある左之助が闘い、三重の極みを会得した左之助が勝つ。安慈から、薫達のいる葵屋の危機を知らされた剣心は、二番手・〝盲剣〟の宇水の相手を斎藤にまかせ、次の相手・宗次郎の元へ急いだ。

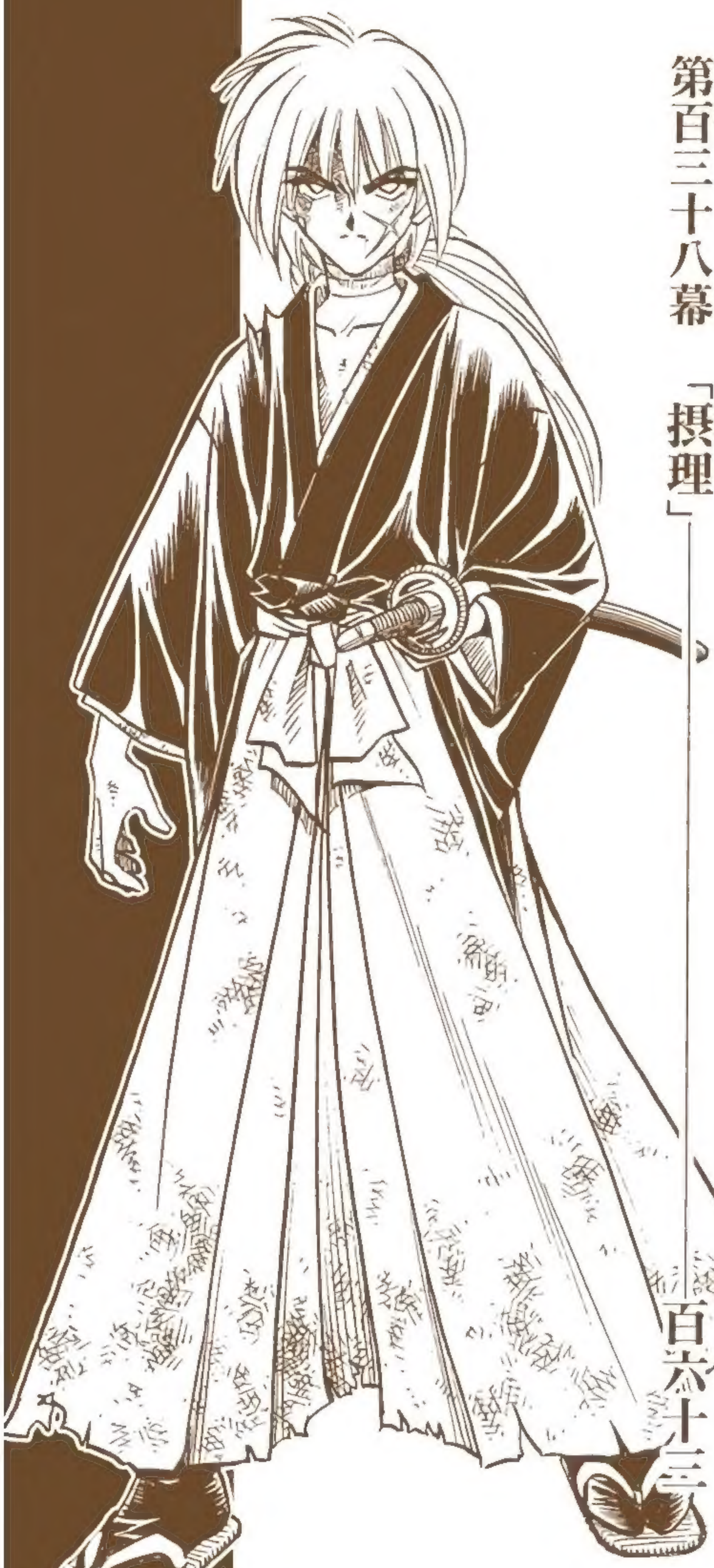
途中、再戦の約束を果たすため待ちうけていた蒼紫と激闘の末、勝利。蒼紫は剣心の言葉にかつての自分を取り戻す。一方、葵屋では襲って来た十本刀のうち、〝飛翔〟の蝙也、〝大鎌〟の鎌足を、弥彦達が奮戦し倒していた。が、〝破軍〟の不二の人間離れした力に、弥彦を除いて、皆があきらめかけた時、比古が現れる。比古は不二も正々堂々と応じるが、九頭龍閃に闘いを挑む。不二の武人としての力と心を認め、敗れさるのだった。葵屋の勝利を宗次郎から知らされる剣心。そしてついに、宗次郎との闘いが始まった。宗次郎の〝縮地〟は、剣心の神速を上回る超神速!!九頭龍閃をかわされ、後ろをとられた剣心は…!?

15巻までのあらすじ

和月伸宏

目次

るろうに剣心 —明治剣客浪漫譚— 巻之十六



第百三十幕 「宗次郎の過去—月夜の邂逅—」 七
第百三十一幕 「宗次郎の過去—稲妻の狂宴—」 二十五
第百三十二幕 「宗次郎の過去—氷雨の笑顔—」 四十三
第百三十三幕 「精神崩壊」 六十三
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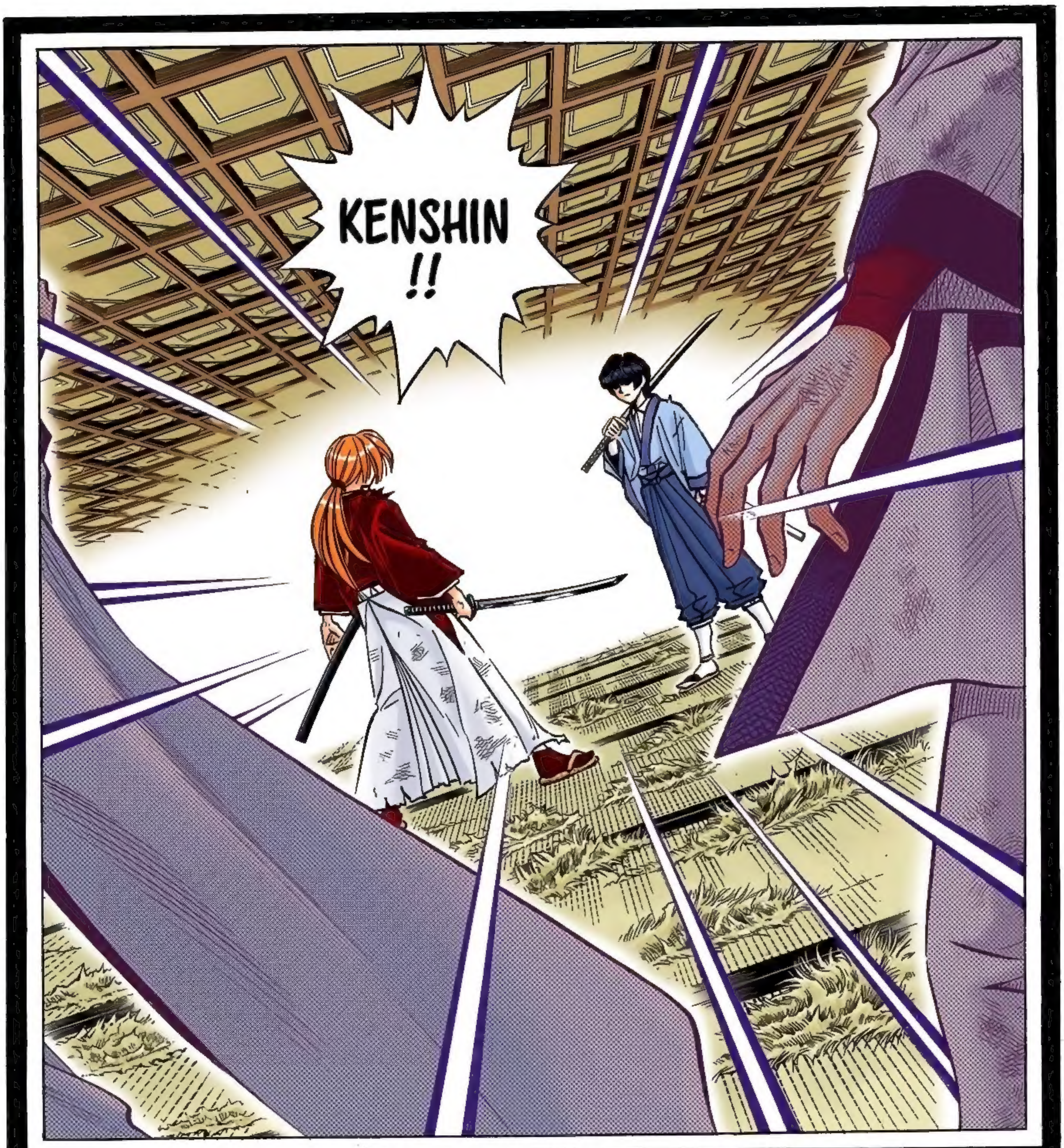
第百三十七幕 「糧」 百四十三
第百三十八幕 「摂理」 百六十三



Act 130

Sōjirō's Story: Moonlight Encounter

...FOR THE FIRST TIME TOOK A CUT TO THE BACK.

KENSHIN ...

VERY BAD!!

THIS IS BAD...

"HEAVEN'S SWORD" SŌJIRŌ REALLY DOES STAND A STEP ABOVE HIMURA BATTŌSAI!

THIS IS GOOD!

HE'LL FINISH HIM OFF IN *ONE MORE STRIKE!*

ONE MORE STRIKE!

EH?

THAT'S NOT...

...QUITE RIGHT.

THAT OUGHTN'T HAVE HAPPENED.

SOMEHOW, I DID NOT.

トン

トン

HIMURA-SAN WAS MOST VULNERABLE AFTER THE STRIKE. THAT'S WHEN I PLANNED TO FINISH HIM. AND YET...

.....

KENSHIN, NOW'S YOUR CHANCE— HE'S TOTALLY OFF-GUARD!

LOOK, KID, WORRY ABOUT THAT LATER... *AFTER* YOU KILL HIM!

スカ!!

I WONDER IF YOU MIGHT HUMOR ME, HIMURA-SAN.

...AH.

I'M CERTAIN I'VE ANOTHER PAIR JUST OVER...

IT OUGHT TAKE NO MORE THAN A MOMENT TO CHANGE.

IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I'VE RUN... MY SANDALS ARE... WELL...

スルルカ

KENSHIN, WHY DIDN'T YOU ATTACK ?!

KID! HEY!!

スカ

CAN YOU SPARE SOME BANDAGING ?

ALSO, THESE WOUNDS NEED TENDING ...

WHAT?!

THAT'S SOMETHING *SAITŌ* MIGHT SAY.

ATTACKING CAN BE *MORE* DIFFICULT WHEN THERE'S NO *DEFENSE* TO REACT AGAINST.

IT'S HIS OWN FAULT FOR LETTING HIS GUARD DOWN!

THERE'S NO CODE AGAINST IT!

...SO, IS HE HARD TO FIGHT?

VERY MUCH.

ONE THING'S CLEAR, AT LEAST...

THE IM-POSSIBILITY OF READING HIS MOVES...

HIS SWORD-SKILL AND LEG-SPEED...

ビッ

...STILL THERE WAS A FLICKER OF UNEASE, HOWEVER BRIEF.

THOUGH IT MAY SEEM AT FIRST GLANCE THAT HE'S PURGED HIMSELF OF EMOTION...

...HIDING THEM FROM EVEN HIMSELF.

...BUT, INSTEAD, MERELY TRAPS THEM, DEEP INSIDE...

PERHAPS HE DOESN'T LACK EMOTIONS AT ALL...

YOU WERE SO CLOSE!

LISTEN, YOU! WHY DIDN'T YOU FINISH HIM OFF?!

YEEEEE !!

WHATEVER CAN HAVE MADE YOU SO ANGRY, YUMI-SAN...?

I WOULD NEVER TAKE HIM SO LIGHTLY.

HIMURA HAS THAT SECRET MOVE, REMEMBER?! IT'S NOT LIKE YOU CAN JUST TAKE HIM DOWN ANYTIME!

YOU'VE GOT THE STRENGTH, KID, BUT NOT THE ATTITUDE!!

THAT HE IS HITOKIRI *LEGEND* DOES NOT SURPRISE ME.

INDEED, HE'S FAR BETTER THAN EXPECTED.

THAT IS HIS FATAL WEAKNESS.

IN FACT, SHISHIO-SAN SAYS...

...THAT HIMURA-SAN WIELDS HIS SWORD TO PROTECT THE WEAK ONLY, VOWING NEVER TO KILL.

AND YET, HOWEVER STRONG HE MAY BE...

...THERE'S NO WAY HE CAN DEFEAT SHISHIO-SAN... OR ME.

HE SIMPLY...

...HAS NO CHANCE TO PREVAIL.

YOU BUM!!

ALL OF IT!

I TOLD YOU TO MOVE 100 BARRELS OF RICE INTO THE WEST STORAGE HOUSE BEFORE SUNSET, DIDN'T I?!

GLUB GLUB

DON'T TELL ME YOU CAN'T... IF I SAY IT, YOU *DO* IT!

AND WHAT ARE YOU GRINNIN' AT?!

AIII

EH?

IN FACT, TONIGHT YOU CAN SLEEP OUTSIDE!

LISTEN, BOY, YOU EITHER FINISH THE JOB, OR YOU DON'T COME INSIDE.

FEH.

TSK.

OH, FATHER.

BUT WHY IS HE ALWAYS *SMILING*, THOUGH? HE DOESN'T ACTUALLY THINK OUR TAKING HIM IN *MEANS* ANYTHING...?

IT'S HARD ENOUGH TO HAVE RICE VALUES DROPPING SINCE THE NEW GOVERNMENT SWITCHED THE TAX BASE FROM RICE TO CASH!

BUT TO HAVE THE OLD MAN DUMP *HIS MISTRESS'* *SON* ON US AS WELL...!

HE'D *BETTER* NOT! WE MAY HAVE HAD TO DO IT FOR THE SAKE OF APPEARANCE, BUT HE'D BEST NOT EXPECT ANYTHING FURTHER!

EVERYTHING GOES TO OUR *OWN* CHILDREN...!

THINK OF HIM AS A GIFT, DAD! YOU CAN WORK HIM TO DEATH AND NEVER HAVE TO PAY HIM.

ひっ ちゃ…

ガラ

ガラ

……

GYAH ...!

トン

HF

HF

!!!

SO YOU SAW...

...DID YOU, BOY?

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EDITED BY: KOJOZERO

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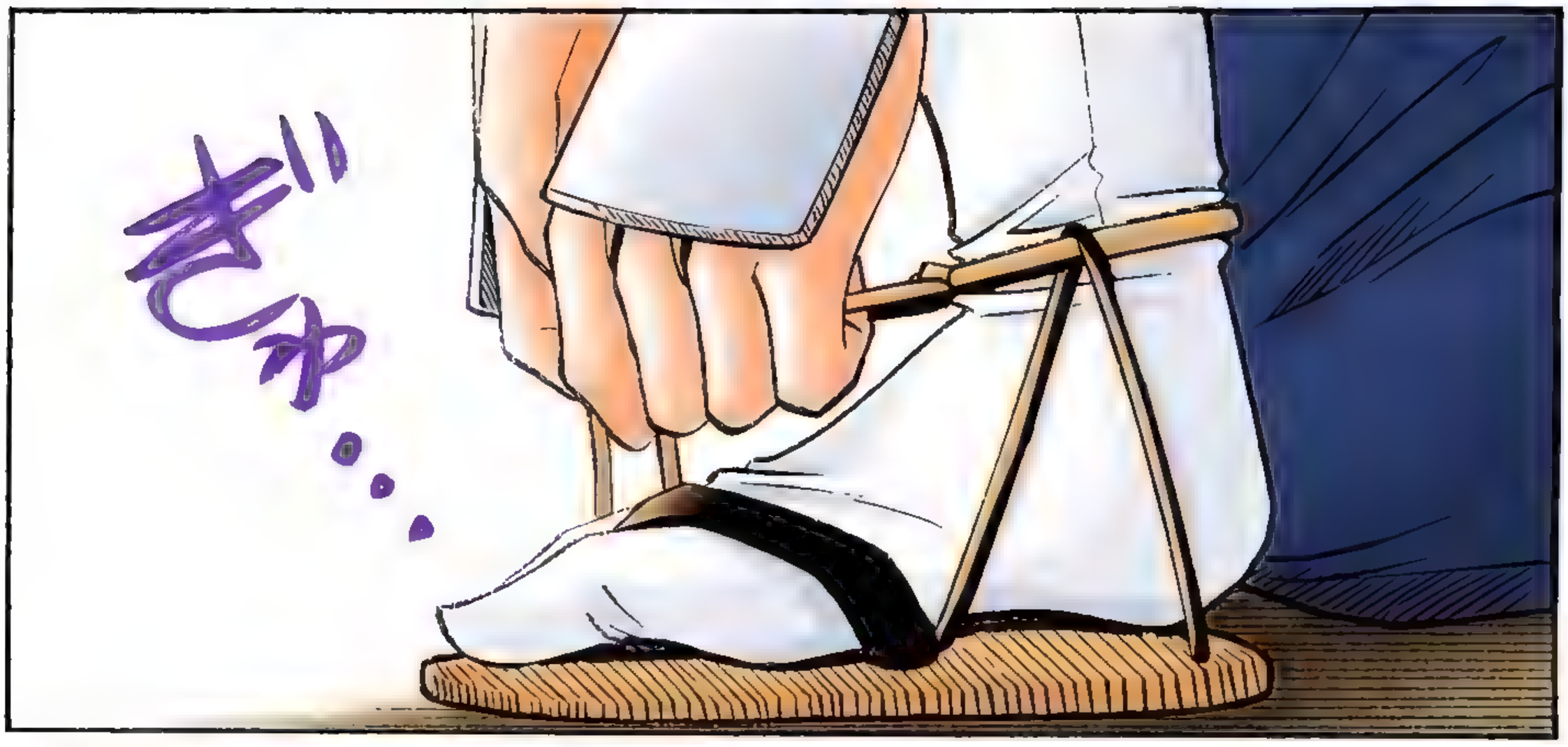
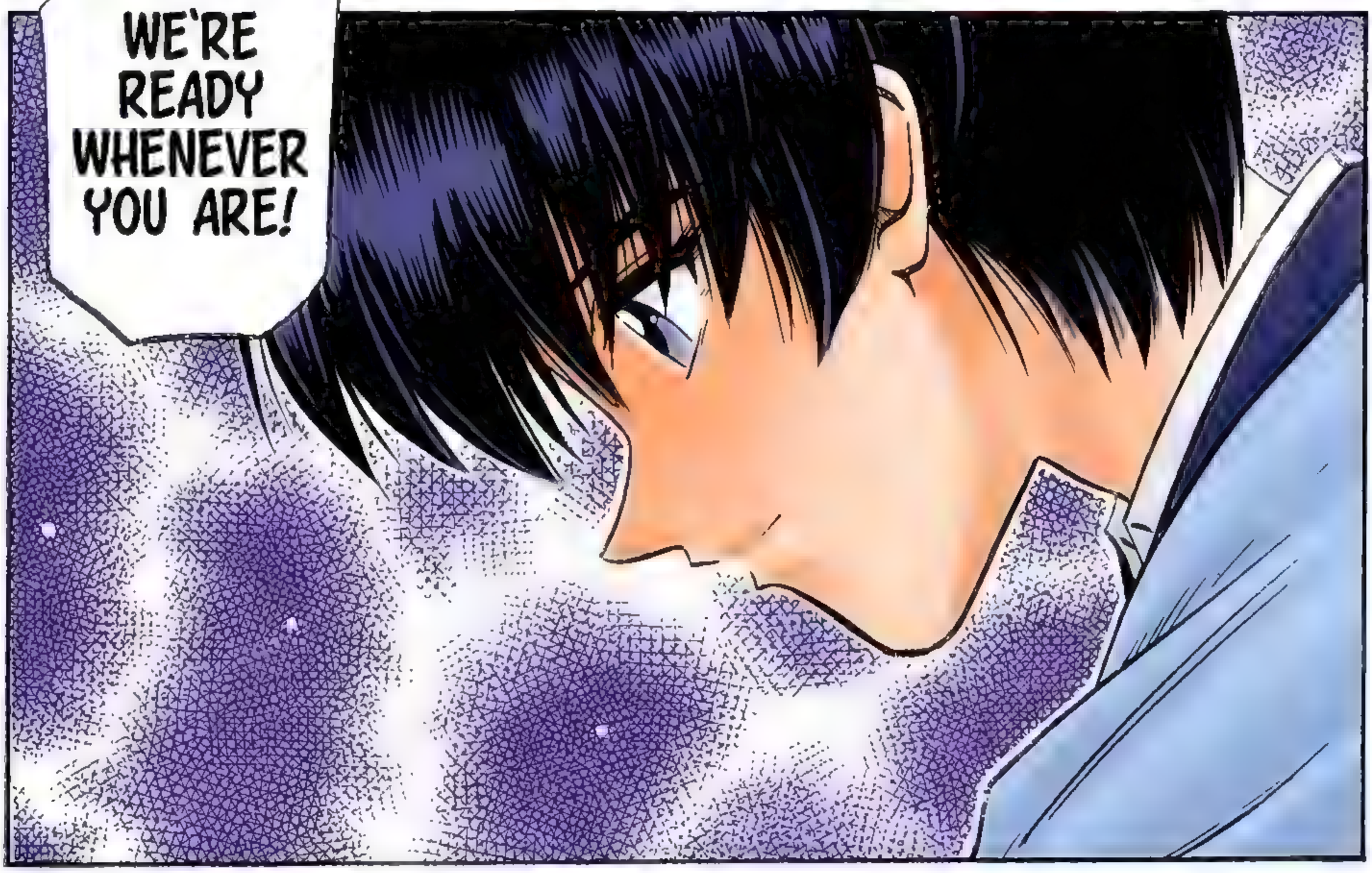
第百三十一幕「宗次郎の過去ー稲妻の狂宴ー」





第百三十一幕「宗次郎の過去ー稲妻の狂宴ー」

THAT'S TOO BAD...

...BOY...

BUT I HAVE NO CHOICE.

PREPARE TO DIE!

...ARE YOU SO HAPPY TO DIE, CHILD?

EH?

WHAT? AHA HA...

EH?

WHAT ?

BOY!

EH!!

WHAT?

BRING FOOD AND BANDAGES.

FOR THAT, I'LL SPARE YOUR LIFE.

I CAN MOVE A LITTLE BETTER NOW.

MM...

KU...

OLD MAN?

UM.

I HAVE A NAME. SHISHIO.

I'M NOT OLD ENOUGH FOR THAT, YET...

NOT THAT YOU CAN *TELL*, WHEN I LOOK LIKE *THIS*.

...BAD GUY?

...YOU'RE A...

SO... SHISHIO-SAN?

THEY USED ME, AND THEN TRIED TO BURN ME TO DEATH.

THEY ARE THE BAD GUYS.

YES?

...YOU'RE A GOOD GUY!

SO THEN...

YOU JUST KILLED...SOME POLICEMEN. DOES THAT MEAN...

NO.

I AM A VILLAIN.

I TOLD YOU I'D SPARE YOUR LIFE.

DON'T RUN, CHILD.

ドド!!

ドド!!

でも…

SO HE'S A *REAL* VILLAIN...

I MAY STAY AWHILE.

I LIKE THIS PLACE. I WON'T BE FOUND UNLESS YOU REPORT ME.

NGH.

THEY'VE SEARCHED THE MOUNTAINS. NO TRACE.

THE ONES WHO WENT AFTER HIM HAVEN'T BEEN SEEN FOR THREE DAYS.

DID YOU HEAR, BROTHER ?

SO VERY STRONG.

...AND SHISHIO-SAN HASN'T LEFT THE STORAGE HOUSE.

THEY WON'T FIND THEM. THE BODIES ARE BURIED IN THE FOREST...

THAT CRIMINAL WHO'S ON THE LOOSE? AN OFFICER...

...WAS JUST HERE, TO TALK TO DAD ABOUT IT.

SŌJIRŌ! HEY!!

IF SO, YOU'D BEST LET ME KNOW. DON'T THINK YOU CAN KEEP IT FROM ME!

HU

YOU'VE LIVED OUTSIDE THESE THREE DAYS.

YOU HEARD OR SEEN ANYTHING?

Y-YES?

...IT'S BECOMING A NUISANCE! WHAT DO WE DO WITH THIS RICE?

BROTHER... HEY, HEY! THIS HABIT OF SWINGING THE SWORD WITHOUT THINKING...

I'LL CUT OFF THAT MURDERER'S HEAD!!

THIS IS A FINE CHANCE TO LET MY SWORDS BE KNOWN!

LOOK AT THAT.

WHAT ?!

UH-OH! SŌJIRŌ'S RUINED ANOTHER RICE BARREL!!

NO!!

EVEN THE MOST *SIMPLE* *TASK* IS BEYOND YOU!!

DO YOU KNOW HOW MUCH THOSE *COST*?!

YES...

YES, INDEED.

THIS TIME, I'M *REALLY* GONNA LET YOU HAVE IT!!

EH?

WHY ARE YOU STILL SMILING AFTER BEING BEATEN?

SO.

VILLAINY COMES IN MANY FORMS.

EH?

WHAT?

WHAT?

BACK THEN, WHEN I FIRST GOT HERE...

...AND THEY WERE MEAN TO ME...I'D GET MAD, OR CRY.

...BUT I WASN'T LIKE THIS BEFORE.

HA HA...IT'S FUNNY...

...THE HARDER THEY'D *BEAT* ME, FOR BEING A BRAT.

BUT THE MORE I GOT MAD, OR CRIED...

...THEY'D GET TIRED OF BEATING ME AND QUIT.

IF I HELD IT IN, THOUGH, AND SMILED...

...I HAD TO KEEP SMILING.

NO MATTER HOW MUCH IT ...OR HURT... HOW ASHAMED I WAS...

YOU'RE WRONG.

...BUT IT'S THEM WHO MADE ME THIS WAY.

IT'S HOW I AM. I'M NOT PART OF THIS FAMILY...

SO NOW YOU DO IT, AND ARE NOT EVEN AWARE OF IT.

PAIN, TERROR...IT BRINGS A SMILE TO YOUR LIPS.

IN THIS WORLD, THE WEAK ARE THE SUSTENANCE OF THE STRONG.

THE STRONG LIVE, THE WEAK DIE.

NO ONE CAN "MAKE" YOU INTO ANYTHING.

NO *SMILE* WILL SPARE YOU FROM *THAT* ETERNAL TRUTH.

IT'S YOUR OWN FAULT, FOR BEING WEAK.

ドッ

!

THINK OF IT AS MY THANKS.

THIS, I GIVE TO YOU.

LISTEN, HAS ANYONE SEEN THE BANDAGES ...?

ドサッ

……

...BUT THE BANDAGES ?

THE RICE STOLEN FROM THE KITCHEN WAS SŌJIRŌ, OF COURSE ...

IF NOT YOU, THEN *WHO*?!

WHY WOULD I HAVE SEEN THEM?

ONCE DAD WAS DONE WITH HIM, HE MUST'VE NEEDED 'EM.

HEH HEH

...WHY WOULD HE NEED FIVE FULL ROLLS?

BUT ALL OF THEM?! NO MATTER *HOW* HURT HE WAS...

DON'T TELL ME SŌJIRŌ—!

NO!

HEY DAD...THAT GOVERNMENT TRAITOR WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE BURNS ALL OVER, RIGHT?

YEAH.

THE STRONG LIVE...

ゴロゴロゴロ…

…MY BURNS ITCH…

THERE'LL BE A STORM TONIGHT.

ドドド

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EDITED BY: KOJOZERO

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Act 132

Sōjirō's Story: Smile in the Frozen Rain

IN THIS WORLD, THE STRONG LIVE...

...THE WEAK DIE.

...WHILE THE WEAK...

EVEN SO...

IT MUST...

...HURT, TO BE CUT BY A SWORD.

IF JUST BEING *BEATEN* HURTS SO MUCH, THEN A SWORD...!

I'M WEAK...BUT THAT'S JUST HOW I AM.

I'M NOT MEANT TO BE A SWORDS-MAN, LIKE SHISHIO-SAN.

I'D BETTER GIVE THIS BACK.

スゥ...

.....

THAT CAN'T BE GOOD...

!

SŌJIRŌ!!

...AND GIVE IT TO SHISHIO-SAN TOMORROW.

I'D BEST *HIDE* THIS UNDER THE *HOUSE*, FOR NOW...

ﾊﾊﾊ...

SŌJIRŌ! WHY, YOU...!

WORSE TO LIE TO ME!

BAD ENOUGH TO LIE...

DO YOU WANT TO *RUIN* ME?!

LITTLE RUNT!!

BRINGING THE *POLICE* DOWN ON MY HEAD?!

TELL ME, WHERE IS THE TRAITOR?!

WELL, I WON'T LET YOU!!

I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THIS DOG!

LET ME FINISH HIM OFF!

HH

HH

WHO WILL QUESTION ONE MORE, SLASHED TO DEATH...?

THERE'S A *VIOLENT TRAITOR* IN HIDING, NEARBY.

WHY WOULD IT?

WAIT, WAIT! WON'T THAT GET US IN TROUBLE?

LET'S JUST CALL THE POLICE *AFTER* WE KILL HIM.

THE ONLY PLACE SŌJIRŌ COULD HIDE SOMEONE IS IN THE STORAGE HOUSE...

GO AHEAD AND FINISH HIM, BROTHER.

HYOH—

DIRTY, NASTY, UNGRATEFUL LITTLE *BRUTE!!*

YOU WON'T RUIN ME, BOY!

HERE'S YOUR CHANCE TO TEST THOSE SWORDS.

IF WE REPORT THE TRAITOR, WE MAY EVEN RECEIVE A *REWARD!*

...OF THE STRONG, IN THIS WORLD.

THE WEAK ARE THE SUSTEN-ANCE...

...AND THE WEAK—

THE STRONG LIVE...

COME BACK HERE!

YAAH!

SOMEONE...

HELP!!

ANYONE!!

HELP ME!!

HE'S GONE!

WHERE'S HE HIDING?!

HH

HH

HH

GOT YOU!

SNEAKY LITTLE RAT!

UH...

UH...

HELP ME... SHISHIO-SAN.

HH

HH

WHO'D YOU STEAL THAT FROM?!

HO... THAT'S AN EXPENSIVE SWORD!

GIVE IT TO ME!

IN THIS WORLD, THE STRONG LIVE...

AND THE WEAK...

DIE!

EEEEEE

HE IS A WHORE'S SON.

WHAT A COWARDLY CRY!

ゴゴゴ…

HEE-HEE! LOOK! IT'S A...

...HEAD.

IN THIS WORLD, THE STRONG...

...EAT THE FLESH...

DOG!!

复仇

...OF THE WEAK.

YAUHH!!

GUHH!

KUNG FU

HAND

SLAP

SMACK

THUD

RAIN

...CRYING?

YOU'RE NOT...

.....

...NO.

YES.

JOIN ME?

WILL I EVER... BE LIKE YOU?

SHISHIO-SAN...?

WE'LL SEE.

MM?

BUT YOU CAN BE STRONGEST... AFTER ME, OF COURSE.

WHAT?

AN ETERNAL VERITY.

...FIGHTING THAT MAN IS...

...MAKING ME... ANGRY.

IN WIELDING A SWORD...

...FOR THE WEAK ALONE, HE *DEFIES* AN ETERNAL TRUTH.

...WHY WASN'T *I* PROTECTED, BACK THEN?

IF HELPING THE WEAK WERE EVEN *POSSIBLE*...

SŌJIRŌ?

SOMEHOW...

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EVEN JUST TO *LOOK* AT HIM...

...ANNOYS ME.

HIS FACE IS SMILING, AS USUAL, AND YET...!

"ANNOYS" ?

Act 133—Destruction of the Soul

NO MORE GAMES. FINISH HIM WITH THE NEXT STRIKE!

USE THAT "SHUKUCHI" OF YOURS.

SOMETHING HAS *CHANGED* IN HIM!

BOY!

DON'T WORRY. I WILL FINISH IT...

...AND WITH ONE MOVE *SHORT* OF SHUKUCHI!

IF I USE MY SHUKUCHI, I CAN BEAT HIM, YES.

BUT...

BOY! DON'T...

PLEASE STOP SHOUT-ING.

...I'LL ONLY BE THAT MUCH MORE ANNOYED!

IF I WASTE MY GREATEST BLOW ON THAT WEAKLING...

Act 133 Destruction of the Soul

...YOU ALL RIGHT?

...NO COMMENT.

HE'S COMING.

HE IS.

AS DOES THE PATH TO KAORU-DONO.

ﾄﾞﾝ...

AND YET THE PATH TO SHISHIO LEADS THROUGH HIM.

WHAT OTHER CHOICE IS THERE...?

FULL STRENGTH.

ONE MOVE *SHORT* OF SHUKUCHI.

HERE GOES.

HAAA

...OR LEFT?

RIGHT...

!!!

WHAT'S THIS?!

NOWHERE TO RUN—!

NOT JUST SIDEWAYS, BUT VERTICALLY, TOO—HITTING FROM *ALL* DIRECTIONS!

THE STRONG LIVE. THE WEAK DIE.

THE STRONG EAT THE FLESH OF THE WEAK.

NK!

YOU SPEAK OF NOT KILLING.

PRO- TECTING THE WEAK.

THAT'S A LIE.

BACK THEN...

NK!

...WHY WERE YOU NOWHERE TO BE FOUND?

...WHEN I NEEDED HELP...

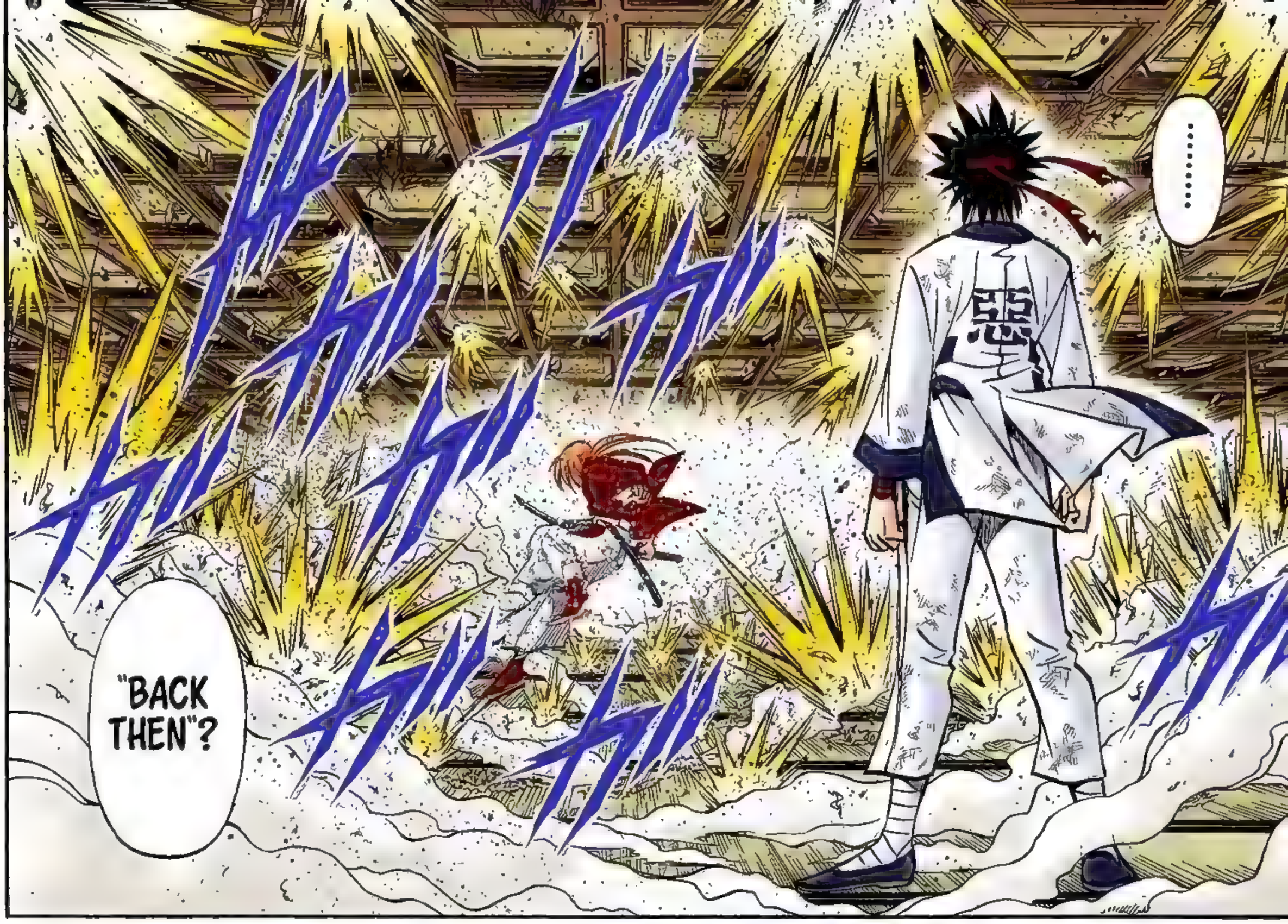
IF A SWORD CAN PROTECT THE WEAK...

...WHERE WERE *YOU* TO PROTECT *ME*?

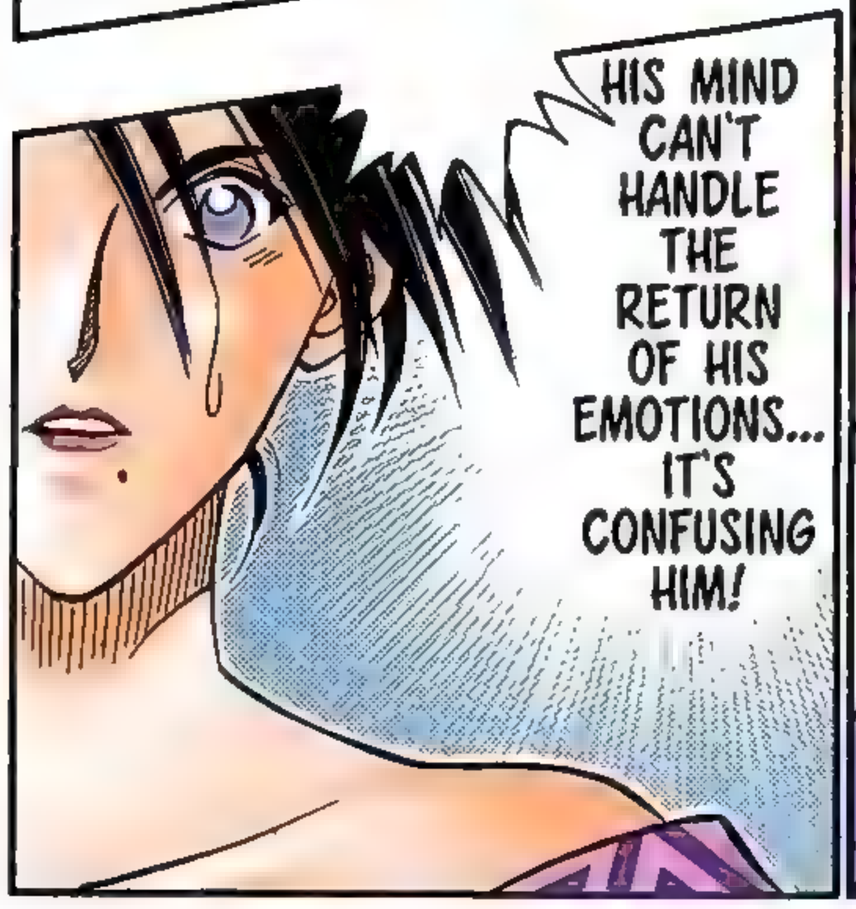
ZAN

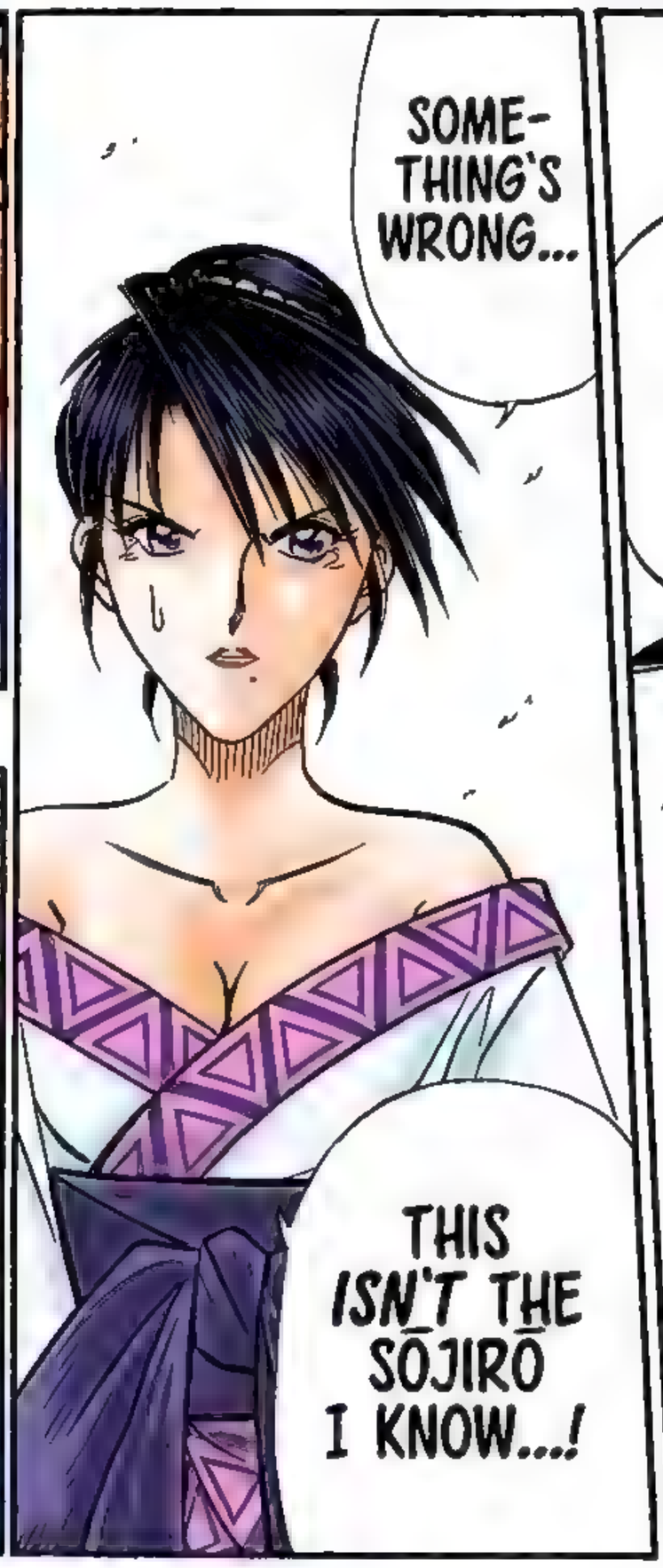
ZAN

ZAN


……
"BACK THEN"?

IT'S LIKE...WHEN KENSHIN TURNED BACK INTO BATTŌSAI... HIS MIND TURNED BACK TO THE PAST...


HIS MIND CAN'T HANDLE THE RETURN OF HIS EMOTIONS... IT'S CONFUSING HIM!


SOME-THING'S WRONG...
THIS ISN'T THE SŌJIRŌ I KNOW...!

"DIDN'T PROTECT HIM"?
WHAT'S HE TALKING ABOUT?!

IT'S *SHISHIO-SAN* WHO IS CORRECT.

NO ONE WAS THERE TO PROTECT ME!

—WHICH MEANS—

—AND IN ONE, SHARP SWORD!

WHAT PROTECTION I HAD WAS IN THE *TRUTH* SHISHIO-SAN TAUGHT ME—

...HE CAN READ THE MOVES—NO MATTER *HOW* FAST THE OPPONENT!

!!

I KNEW IT!! IF THERE'S EMOTION, *ANY* OF IT...

KH!!

HE GOT HIM!

HE SAW IT COMING!

EVEN SO...

...HE CANNOT RECALL THE "BACK THEN" YOU REFER TO.

THIS ONE TRIES VERY HARD TO REMEMBER, BUT...

...WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

!!

YOU DON'T MEAN TO LET ME *LIVE*...?!

IF IT'S NOT TOO LATE...

...CAN THERE BE ANOTHER CHANCE?

WAA

I WAS CRYING!

...REALLY, I WAS CRYING.

I KILLED PEOPLE... BUT I DIDN'T *WANT* TO KILL THEM.

THAT IS SHISHIO-SAN'S TRUTH, AS TAUGHT TO ME.

MY FACE...WAS *SMILING* IN THAT FROZEN RAIN, BUT...

AND YET... IS IT SO *WRONG* TO BE WEAK?

"THE STRONG LIVE, AND THE WEAK DIE."

...SŌJIRŌ
...

...CRACKED
...

ガキィィィ

THIS WAS DONE BY KOJOZERO SCANS

EDITED BY: KOJOZERO

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Act 134—The Second Secret

SLAUGHTERED THE FOSTER FAMILY THAT ABUSED HIM AT THE AGE OF EIGHT.

SETA SŌJIRŌ. BORN KANAGAWA PREFECTURE, FIRST YEAR OF BUNKYŪ (1861).

IN ROLE AS RIGHT-HAND TO SHISHIO MAKOTO, WOULD GO ON TO KILL MANY MORE, INCLUDING MINISTER OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS ŌKUBO TOSHIMICHI.

IN THE WAY.

……

第百三十四幕（だいひゃくさんじゅうよんまく）「天翔龍閃其之弐（あまかけるりゅうのひらめきそのに）」

...HE'S...

AND NOW...

COMING.

ARE YOU READY?

第百三十四幕「天翔龍閃其之弐」

……

HE'S STAYING WITH HIS SPEED.

BATTŌJUTSU STANCE.

RIGHT HAND'S DOWN A BIT...

IF IT HITS, IT REALLY WILL BE "SHUNTEN-SATSU."

A CHARGE WITH SHUKUCHI... THEN HEAVEN'S SWORD BATTŌ-JUTSU.

"INSTANT HEAVEN KILL." YOU WILL DROP BEFORE THE PAIN STRIKES.

THE ONLY MOVE I'VE NAMED.

SHUNTEN-SATSU.

BUT CAN YOU DO IT...

...WITH YOUR MIND SO MUDDLED?

!

SO CONFIDENT.

...AH. YOU SEE IT ALL, DON'T YOU.

HE'S JUST HAD HIS BUTT HANDED TO HIM BY SOMEONE WHO WASN'T USING FULL STRENGTH!

YEAH, AND HOW *CAN* HE BE?!

...HE FIGHTS FROM A DISADVANTAGE.

AS USUAL...

EVEN IF YOU DO READ THEM, YOU'LL BE TOO SLOW...

...TO REACT TO THE SHUNTEN-SATSU.

WORRY ABOUT YOURSELF, NOT ME.

IS THAT SO...?

...LET'S TRY THIS.

WELL, THEN...

THAT'S A BATTŌJUTSU STANCE!!

HE SHEATHED HIS SWORD!

IT'S GOTTA BE...

AT THIS STAGE OF THE FIGHT?!

飛天御剣流 奥義

天翔龍閃!!

あまかける—りゅうのひらめき

AMAKAKERU RYŪ NO HIRAMEKI!!

THE SECRET OF HITEN MITSURUGI-RYŪ...

THIS ONE IS ALWAYS SERIOUS.

YOU'RE SERIOUS.

OR ELSE THE WORDS FROM THIS MOUTH...

...WILL NOT BE BELIEVED.

.....

...CAN THERE BE ANOTHER CHANCE?

IF IT'S NOT TOO LATE...

!

WE MUST BOTH DO SO...

THEN I MUST STRIKE AT FULL STRENGTH.

ガキ!!

IS HIS WAY THE RIGHT ONE?

...OR THERE'LL BE NO ANSWER TO MY QUESTION.

...SHISHIO-SAN IN THE RIGHT?

OR IS...

...WILL DECIDE!!

THE SHUNTEN-SATSU...

IT'S—

HE'S GONE!

IT'S TOO FAST TO SEE!!

SHUKUCHI !!

OF COURSE!

KENSHIN ?!

IN BATTŌJUTSU, SŌJIRŌ HAS THE SPEED BUT KENSHIN HAS THE SKILL!

...HE DOESN'T JUST WAIT, BUT GOES INTO "GOD-SPEED" SHINSOKU AND THEN RELEASES THE AMAKAKERU RYŪ NO HIRAMEKI, MAKING OVERALL SPEED ABOUT EQUAL.

AND SO, TO COUNTER SHUNTENSATSU, WHICH IS BATTŌJUTSU FOLLOWED BY SHUKUCHI...

THE FACTOR THAT WILL DECIDE THE WINNER...

...WILL BE...

...THE POWER...

...OF THE MOVE !!

嵐 (あらし)

...BARELY.

HH

HH

HEY. YOU ALL RIGHT?

HOW'S SŌJIRŌ?

HFF

HFF

I DIDN'T THINK IT POSSIBLE!

TO REACH SUCH POWER... BY ADHERING TO HIS VOW NEVER TO KILL...

THIS IS JUST...THE OPPOSITE OF...OUR BATTLE AT SHINGETSU VILLAGE.

YOU'RE NOT SAYING, BOY, THAT...

I'M THE ONE WHO WAS WRONG.

THIS DUEL SHOWED ME THAT.

...FIRST YOU HAVE TO TEAR IT ALL DOWN.

TO FIX A BUILDING THAT WAS BUILT WRONG...

HEH

はあ

はあ

はあ

はあ

IT SEEMS HIMURA-SAN WAS IN THE RIGHT.

NO.

ISN'T THAT SO.

...THEN IT IS SHISHIO'S WAY THAT IS RIGHT.

IF "RIGHT" IS DETERMINED BY WINNING A DUEL...

!

...WE'D HAVE ALL THE ANSWERS.

IF THE TRUTH COULD BE FOUND THROUGH A FIGHT...

YOU'RE A HARSH MAN, HIMURA-SAN.

ほぇ...

THE TRUTH MUST BE FOUND NOT THROUGH BATTLES, BUT OVER A LIFETIME.

...AS ONE MAKES AMENDS FOR THE CRIMES ONE HAS COMMITTED.

YOU THINK SO?

FAR MORE TOUGH THAN SHISHIO-SAN.

YOU DON'T GIVE UP ANSWERS EASILY.

THIS WAS DONE BY KOJOZERO SCANS

EDITED BY: KOJOZERO

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Act 135
Those Who Gather, Those Who Part

第百三十五幕「集う者去る者」

YOU WON'T NEED YUMI-SAN TO GUIDE YOU AFTER THIS.

IF YOU FOLLOW THE PATH, YOU'LL FIND SHISHIO-SAN.

WILL HE BE ALL RIGHT?

NO...NOT HIS WOUNDS.

NOTHING EVEN CLOSE TO FATAL.

HIM? HE'LL BE FINE.

WE GOTTA KEEP MOVING.

...YOU'RE RIGHT.

THERE'S NOTHING MORE TO DO FOR HIM.

...OH. WELL, IT'S UP TO HIS HEART, NOW.

STAY? YOUR LAP IS SO NICE...

...YOU HAVE CHANGED.

ARE YOU OKAY?

I SHOULD BE GOING...

HA, HA...

NOTHING FOR YOU TO WORRY ABOUT.

THAT DOORWAY IN THE BACK OPENS TO A HALLWAY STRAIGHT TO SHISHIO-SAN'S ROOM.

...AMAKAKERU RYŪ NO HIRAMEKI.

...THE SECRET OF THE...

GET THERE BEFORE HIMURA-SAN AND TELL SHISHIO-SAN...

Those Who Part
3rd Popularity Poll

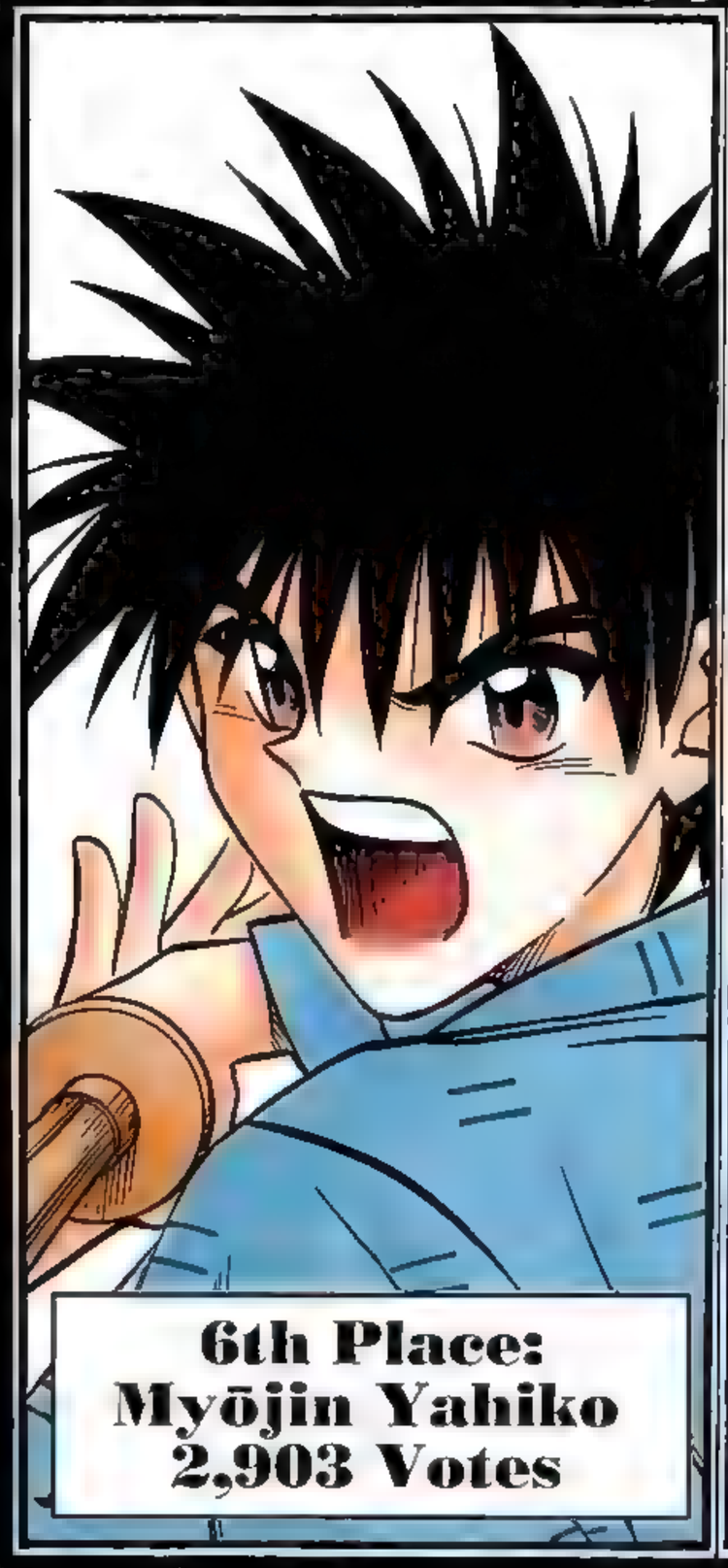
2nd Place:
Sagara Sanosuke
4,242 Votes

3rd Place:
Saitō Hajime
4,115 Votes

1st Place:
Himura Kenshin
10,896 Votes

11th: Sagara Sōzō 12th: Okita Sōshi 13th: Shishio Makoto
14th: Han'nya 15th: Takani Megumi (and so on...)

第百三十五幕「集う者去る者」



6th Place:
Myōjin Yahiko
2,903 Votes

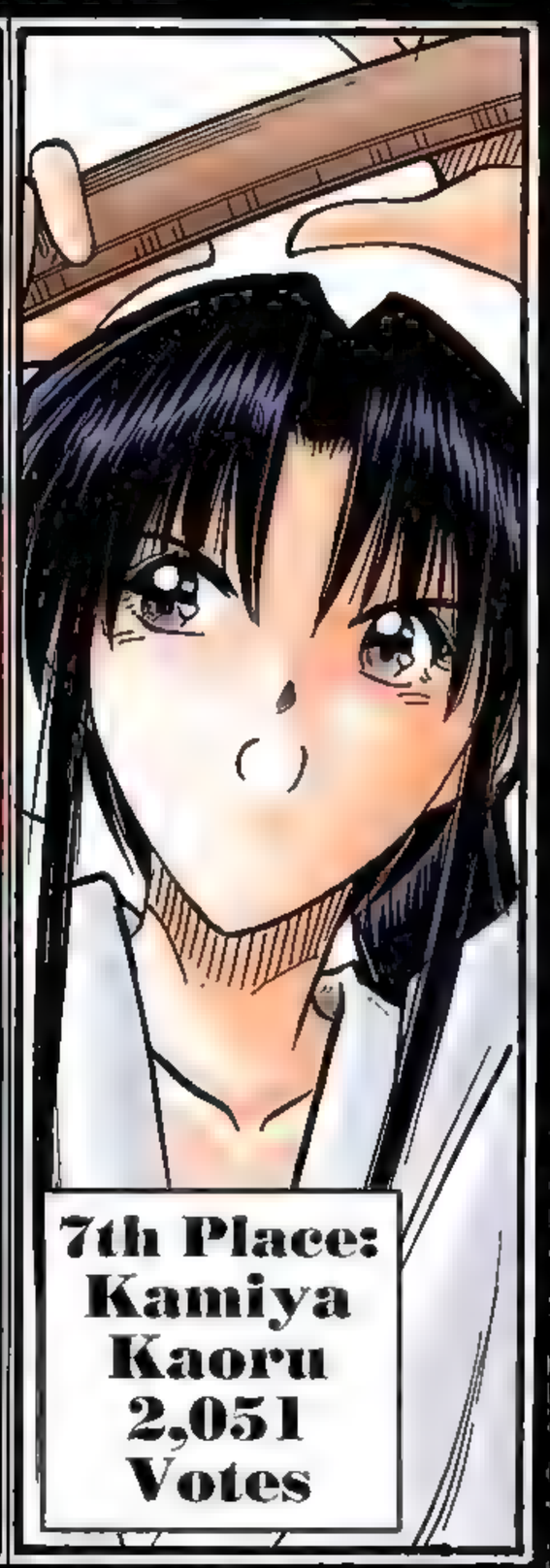
5th Place:
Seta Sōjirō
3,009 Votes

4th Place:
Shinomori Aoshi
3,864 Votes

10th Place:
Honjō
Kamatari
870
Votes

9th Place:
Makimachi
Misao
1,874
Votes

8th Place:
Iiko
Seijūrō
1,914
Votes



7th Place:
Kamiya
Kaoru
2,051
Votes

*These results are based on a poll conducted in the pages of WEEKLY SHONEN JUMP, Japan.
Who's your favorite Kenshin character? Send your answers to:
SHONEN JUMP c/o VIZ, LLC. P.O. Box 77010, San Francisco, CA 94107
ATTN: Rurouni Kenshin Popularity Contest

HFF

HFF

HFF

HFF

WELL ...

!

SEEMS YOU'VE HAD A ROUGH TIME OF IT.

I THOUGHT I'D TOLD YOU I WAS "FUJITA GORŌ."

HM?

...SAITŌ HAJIME.

BATTŌSAI LEFT LONG AGO.

SHOULD YOU BE WASTING TIME HERE?

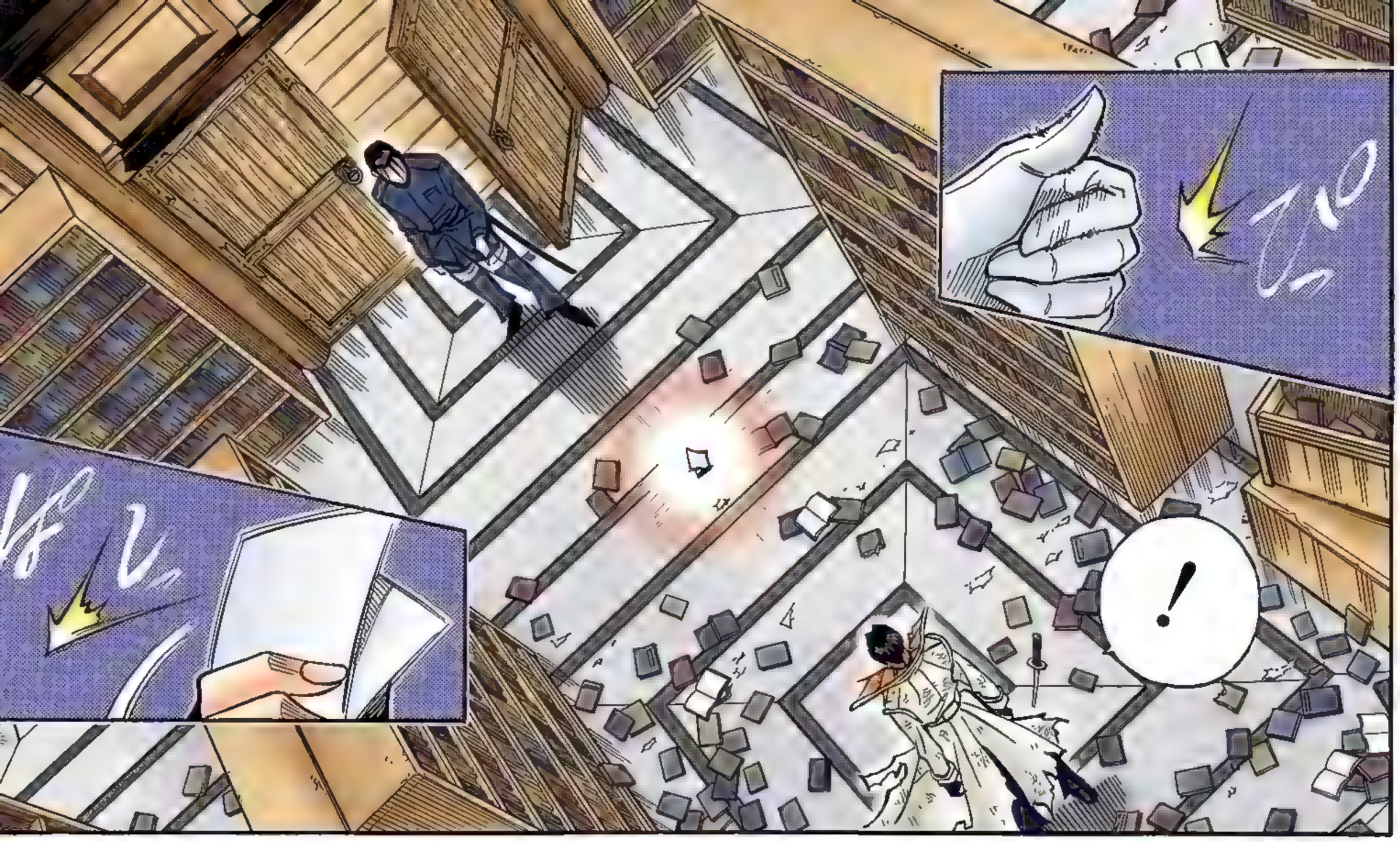
OH?

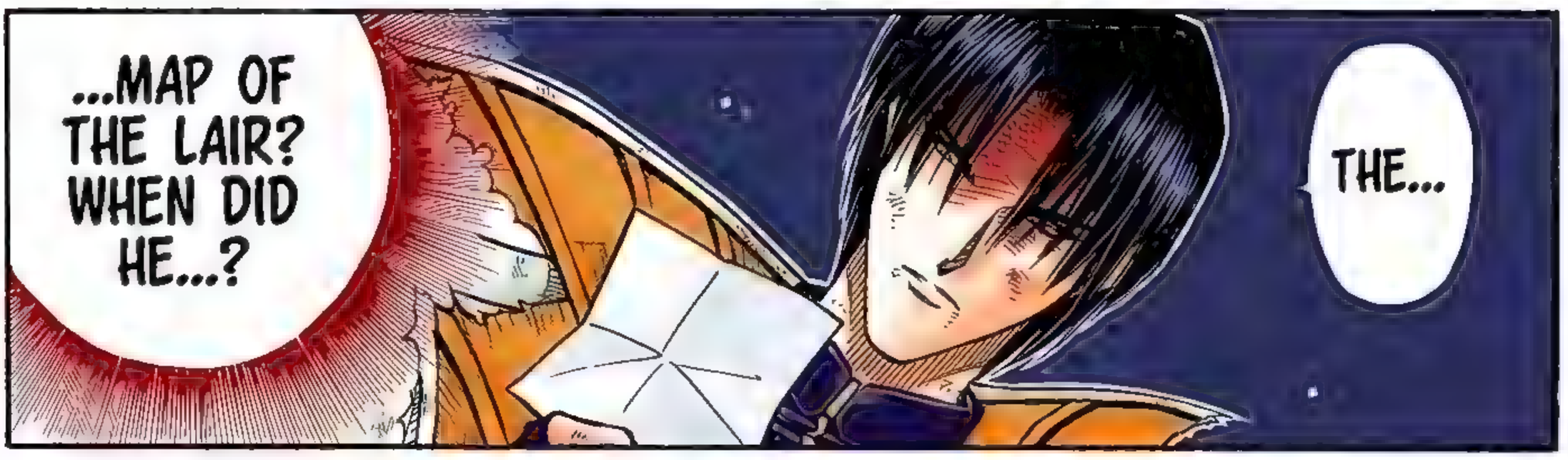
I'VE HEARD FROM THAT "SETA" GUY.

WHAT...?

GOOD TO HEAR, THEN.

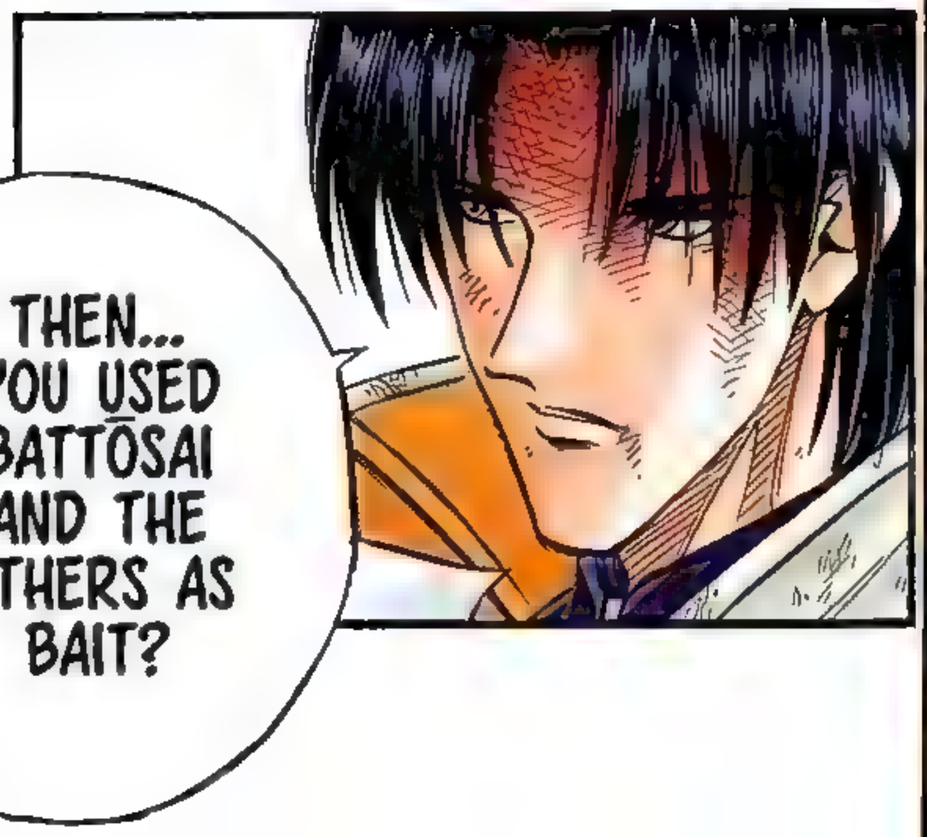
THINGS ARE COMING ALONG JUST FINE.


!


...MAP OF THE LAIR? WHEN DID HE...?
THE...

IT'S BEST WE SPLIT UP, NOW.
NOW THAT I'VE COME THIS FAR, I DON'T *NEED* A MAP.

IT'S WHY I CHOSE TO SPY FOR THE GOVERN-MENT.
THE ONIWABANSHŪ IS GREAT AT COLLECTING INTELLIGENCE ...
...BUT WHEN IT COMES TO NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE, THE COUNTRY ITSELF IS MOST EFFICIENT IN COLLECTING IT.


THEN... YOU USED BATTŌSAI AND THE OTHERS AS BAIT?

SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

THIS WAR WILL SHAPE THE FUTURE OF THE NATION.

WE CAN'T AFFORD NOT TO WIN IT.

WELL...

THEN WHAT BECOMES OF YOUR DUEL?

THAT'S SOMETHING THAT'S BEEN GOING SINCE THE BAKUMATSU.

WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF BATTŌSAI WERE TO DIE?

THEN I SUPPOSE WHOEVER SURVIVES, WINS.

HMPH.

IF ONLY... HE AND I COULD HAVE FOUGHT THEN.

FORMER 3RD UNIT SHINSEN-GUMI CAPTAIN, SAITŌ HAJIME.

DURING THE BAKUMATSU, KYOTO WAS FILLED WITH MEN LIKE HIM.

BECAUSE YOU FOUGHT BATTŌSAI, HIS EYES AND THE EYES OF THE ENEMY HAVE BEEN DISTRACTED...

LEAVING ME TO MOVE AS A SHADOW.

YOU'VE SERVED YOUR PURPOSE.

クッ

I'M... LINGERING.

THE AMAKAKERU RYŪ NO HIRAMEKI...

...SECRET ?

THE PRESENT. NOT THE PAST.

THE PRESENT IS THE TIME TO FIGHT!

IT'S—

YES... FOR ONE, CLEAR MOMENT, I SAW IT.

...THE LEFT...

...FOOT?!

HE FOLLOWED THAT WITH A QUICK LEFT. BUT IN ORDER NOT TO CUT HIS LEG OR LOSE THE MOMENTUM OF THE SWING...

TO AVOID SLASHING YOURSELF, YOU TRADITIONALLY LEAD WITH THE RIGHT FOOT.

...TURNING HIMURA-SAN'S SHINSOKU "GOD-SPEED" INTO THE EVEN FASTER AMAKAKERU RYŪ NO HIRAMEKI.

...HE BROUGHT IN THAT FINAL STEP JUST AN INSTANT AFTER DRAWING HIS SWORD. THAT STEP ADDS FORCE AND ACCELERATION...

IT'S IMPOSSIBLE WITH EVEN ONE GLIMPSE BACKWARD...

...TOWARD WISHING TO LIVE...OR WISHING TO DIE.

IT'S ONE STEP FORWARD INTO THE THIN ZONE BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH.

...WITH JUST ONE STEP?!

YES. BUT IT ISN'T EASY.

BUT I DO THINK IT CAN BE DEFEATED ...

...WITH THE SKILL OF SHISHIO-SAN.

...EVEN YOU CAN'T DO IT?

I CANNOT. WHICH IS WHY I LOST.

PLEASE... JUST A MOMENT.

I HAVE ONE FAVOR TO ASK.

THEN I HAVE TO TELL SHISHIO-SAMA RIGHT THIS—!

WITHOUT THAT STEP, THE AMAKAKERU RYŪ NO HIRAMEKI CAN'T BE EXECUTED.

AND SO, IF HE CONCENTRATES ON HIMURA-SAN'S *LEFT FOOT*, AND NOT ON HIS EYES OR ARMS, HE'LL BE ABLE TO SEE THE BLOW COMING.

THE WAKIZASHI SHISHIO-SAN GAVE ME LONG AGO...

...HAS BEEN MY TREASURE THESE TEN YEARS.

AND THIS IS...?

...RETURN IT TO HIM.

PLEASE...

I CANNOT SAY THAT HE WAS WRONG.

SHISHIO-SAN AND HIS BLADE SAVED ME FROM DEATH.

THAT WILL NEVER CHANGE.

BUT, BOY...

YOU'RE NOT SAYING ...!

THAT MIGHT PERHAPS BE BEST.

...MM.

PLEASE DO LOOK AFTER SHISHIO-SAN.

OH, HE HARDLY NEEDS HELP FROM *ME...!*

...I KNOW. TAKE CARE OF YOUR-SELF.

NO, THAT'S... NOT WHAT I MEAN.

ガイイイ

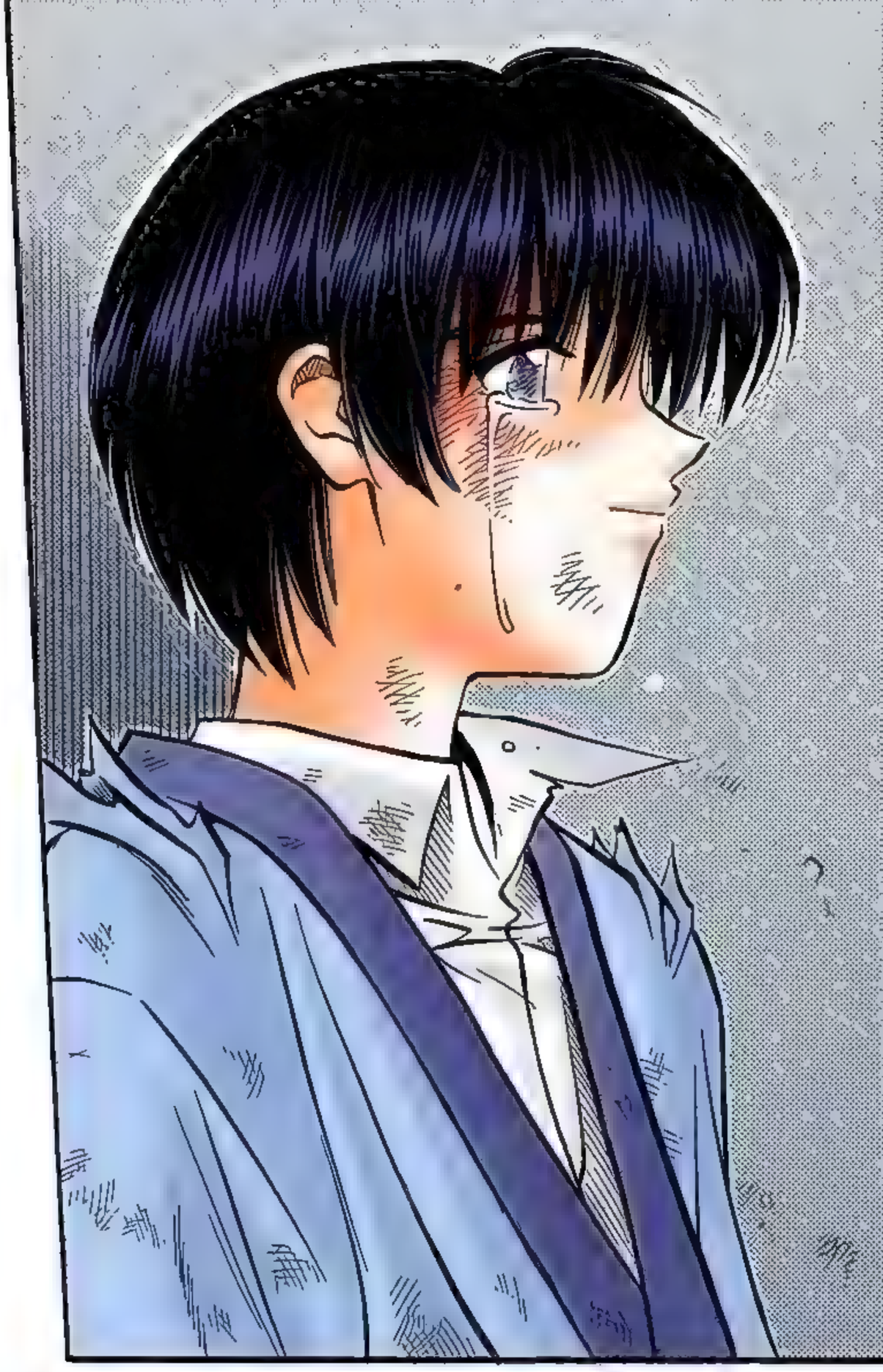
BUT, AS HIMURA-SAN SAID...

I NEED TO FIND MY ANSWERS ON MY OWN.

I'M AFRAID I MUST NOW LEAVE YOU.

SŌJIRŌ, EH...?

IS THAT RIGHT?



...BECOMES HIS PARTING GIFT.

SO THE AMAKAKERU RYŪ NO HIRAMEKI SECRET...

AND I'M THE ONLY ONE LEFT WHO CAN FIGHT.

...COMES DOWN TO MY STRENGTH !!

IN THE END, AS I THOUGHT, IT ALL...

THIS WAS DONE BY KOJOZERO SCANS

EDITED BY: KOJOZERO

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第百三十六幕

「闘いの始まりはいつからだったか」

HOW MANY YEARS, SINCE I'VE FOUGHT?

HEH HEH...

HE STILL VOWS NOT TO KILL, SO THE TRUE HITOKIRI BATTŌSAI HAS YET TO RETURN. BUT HE'S ALSO REACHED A POINT WHERE HE CAN DEFEAT SŌJIRŌ.

OF COURSE.

YOU DO SEEM PLEASED.

NOT TO MENTION THE BONUS OF THE AMAKAKERU RYŪ NO HIRAMEKI!

AS A SWORDSMAN, THIS DUEL MAKES MY BLOOD BOIL AS HOT AS THE THOUGHT OF CONQUERING THE NATION...

RENGOKU IS RUINED, HALF OUR MEN ARE CAPTURED, AND THE JUPPONGATANA HAVE BEEN CAPTURED.

THIS WILL DELAY OUR PLANS TO RETAKE JAPAN BY A DECADE.

I FIND I CAN'T AGREE.

ON THE DAY WE REACHED KYOTO, YOU SAID...

"I WILL ENJOY IT, WHICHEVER WAY IT GOES."

I BEG OF YOU, SHISHIO-SAMA.

DESTROY BATTŌSAI AND HIS MINIONS. FOREVER.

ONCE AGAIN, JAPAN WILL BE RULED BY WARLORDS!

...BUT ONLY THEN!

THE BUILDING OF AN EVEN GREATER ORGANIZATION CAN BEGIN...

IT NEEDS THE STRENGTH OF SHISHIO MAKOTO!!

THIS AGE NEEDS A MAN WHO'LL UNITE OUR STRENGTHS ...

IN THIS AGE, AS THE SPRAWLING POWERS OF EUROPEAN EMPIRES COLONIZE THE WEAK NATIONS OF THE WORLD, JAPAN MUST BE REBORN IN STRENGTH! THERE IS NO OTHER ROAD TO SURVIVAL!

IF I MUST... I WILL BECOME AN ABOMINATION !!

IT IS ALL FOR SHISHIO-SAMA!

!

DEAD END!!

OTHER SIDE!!

!!

YOU'RE LATE. I'M TIRED OF WAITING.

SHISHIO-SAMA IS AT THE DUEL PIT. FOLLOW ME.

BUT HOW— WHAT—?!

あ!

Y... ...YES.

HUH?

TCH

KENSHIN, LET'S JUST GO.

DON'T WORRY.

HEY!

笑

笑!!

!!

I'LL LET THE BOTH OF YOU LEAVE, RIGHT NOW.

I'LL JUST SAY YOU TURNED AROUND AND NEVER MADE IT THIS FAR.

HOW ABOUT THIS—IF YOU PROMISE NEVER TO BOTHER SHISHIO-SAMA AGAIN...

WHAT ?!

YOU DO SEEM AWFULLY BUT TIRED... WHAT DO YOU EXPECT, ENGAGING IN DUEL AFTER DUEL?

I'M TRYING TO BE *MERCIFUL*, IDIOT!

YOUR CONCERN IS ADMIRABLE, TRULY.

YOU WISH TO PROTECT SHISHIO FROM FIGHTING WITH THIS ONE?

...!

THE FIGHT IS BETWEEN SHISHIO AND THIS ONE ALONE.

NO HELP FROM THE SIDELINES.

SANO...

...UH, YEAH?

WHAT ELSE *CAN* I SAY...?

YEAH... I UNDERSTAND.

AND NOT JUST THOSE TWO, EITHER. TOO MANY PEOPLE WE'VE NEVER EVEN *MET* NEED MEN LIKE YOU.

I STILL WON'T LET HIM DIE HERE. YAHIKO AND THE LITTLE MISS NEED HIM.

THANK YOU.

I'M GONNA BRING THE FUTAE NO KIWAMI "DUAL LAYERS" FULL-ON!!

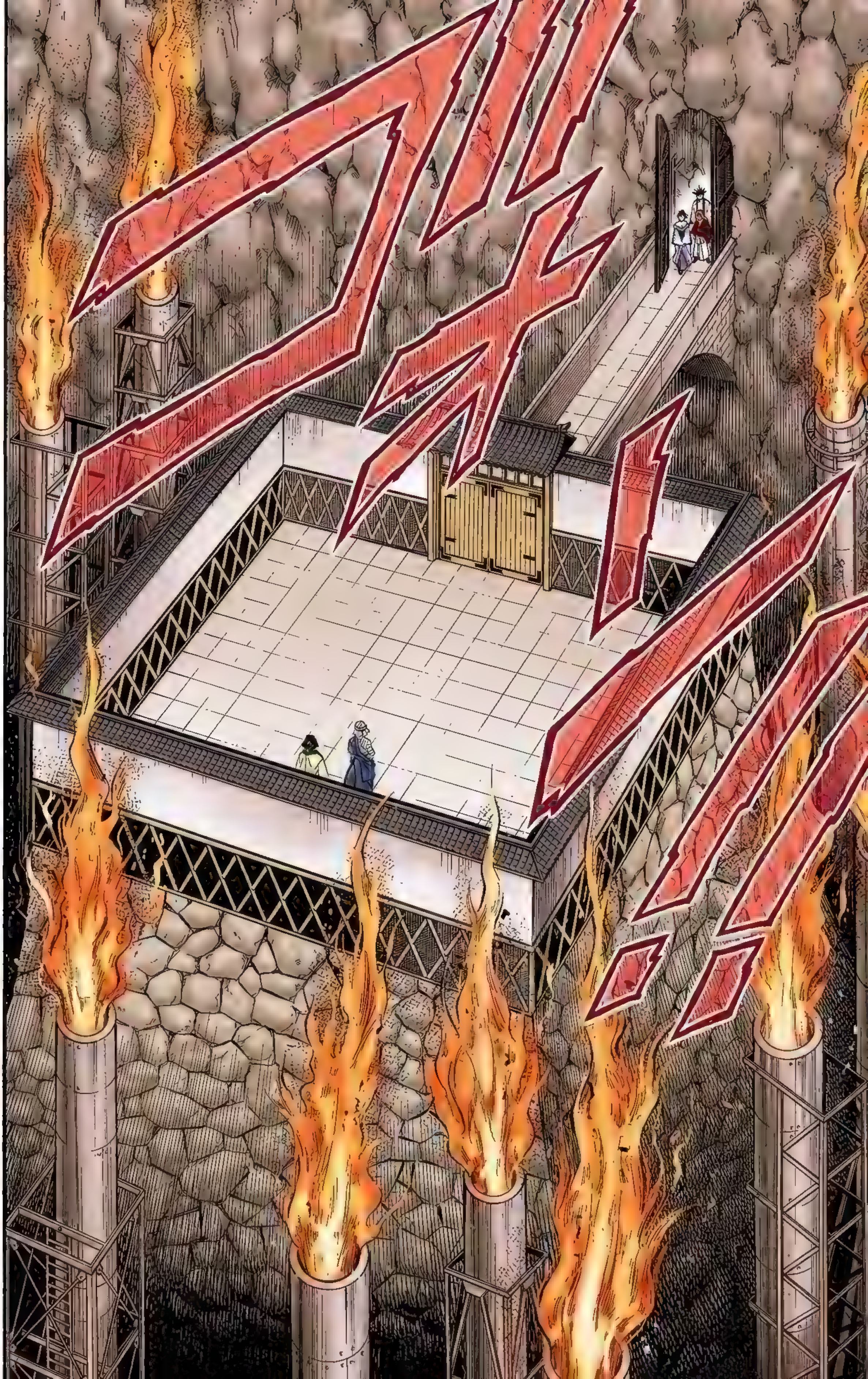
EVEN IF IT MAKES ME A LIAR, WHEN IT COMES DOWN TO IT...

ONCE I OPEN THIS DOOR, THAT'S IT.

ガコーン

BEYOND THESE DOORS IS SHISHIO-SAMA'S PRIVATE ARENA, "THE INFERNAL HALL."

THERE'S NO TURNING BACK.



AN ARENA HANGING OFF THE EDGE OF A CLIFF. NOWHERE TO RUN.

THAT SMELL...THE TORCHES, THEY'RE BURNING *FLAME-WATER!*

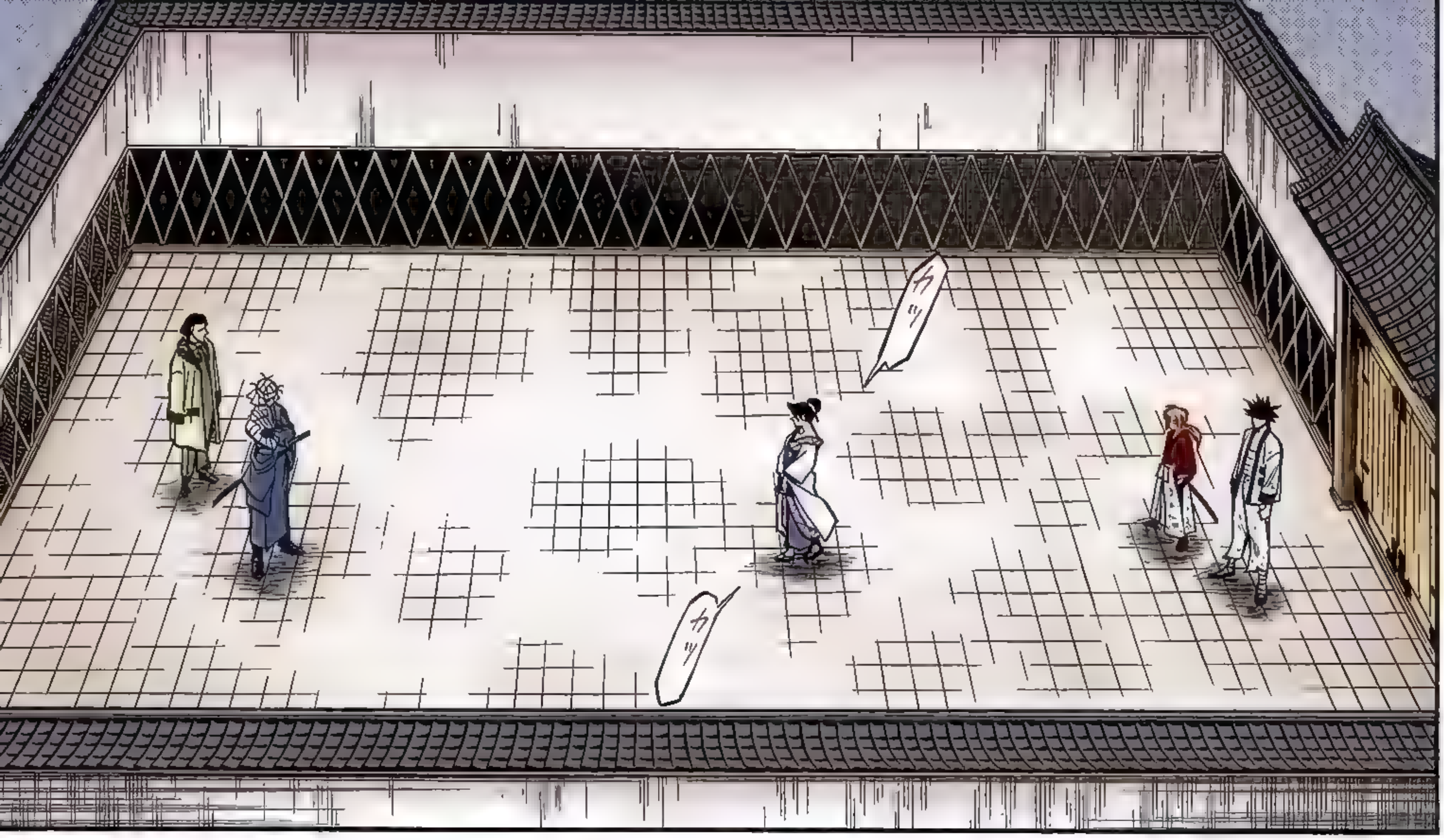
...AS HE SAYS.

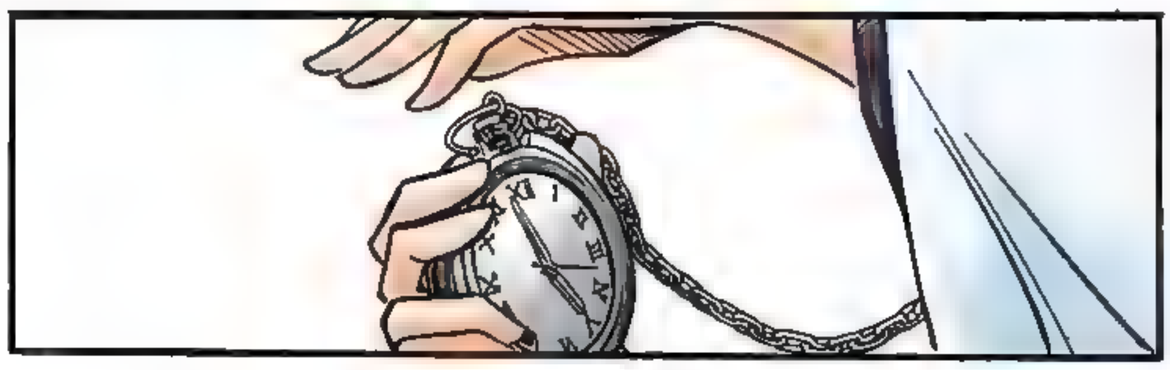
...SHISHIO MAKOTO.

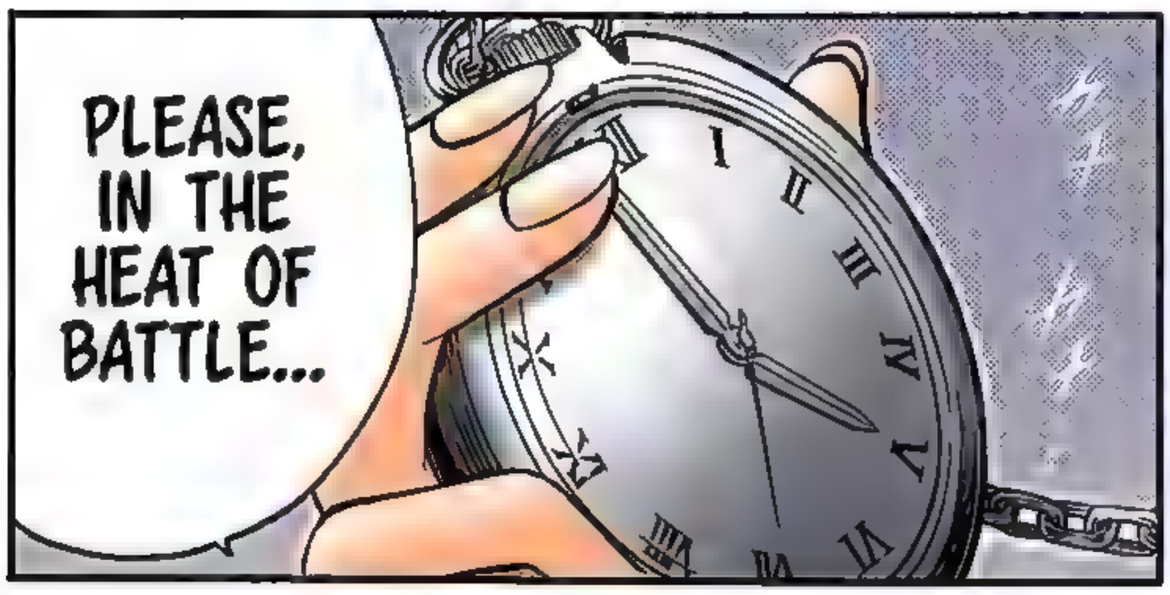
ONCE WE TAKE CONTROL OF JAPAN, WE WILL USE IT AS A FOOTHOLD INTO THE REST OF THE WORLD!

YOU ARE VULGAR, AS USUAL.

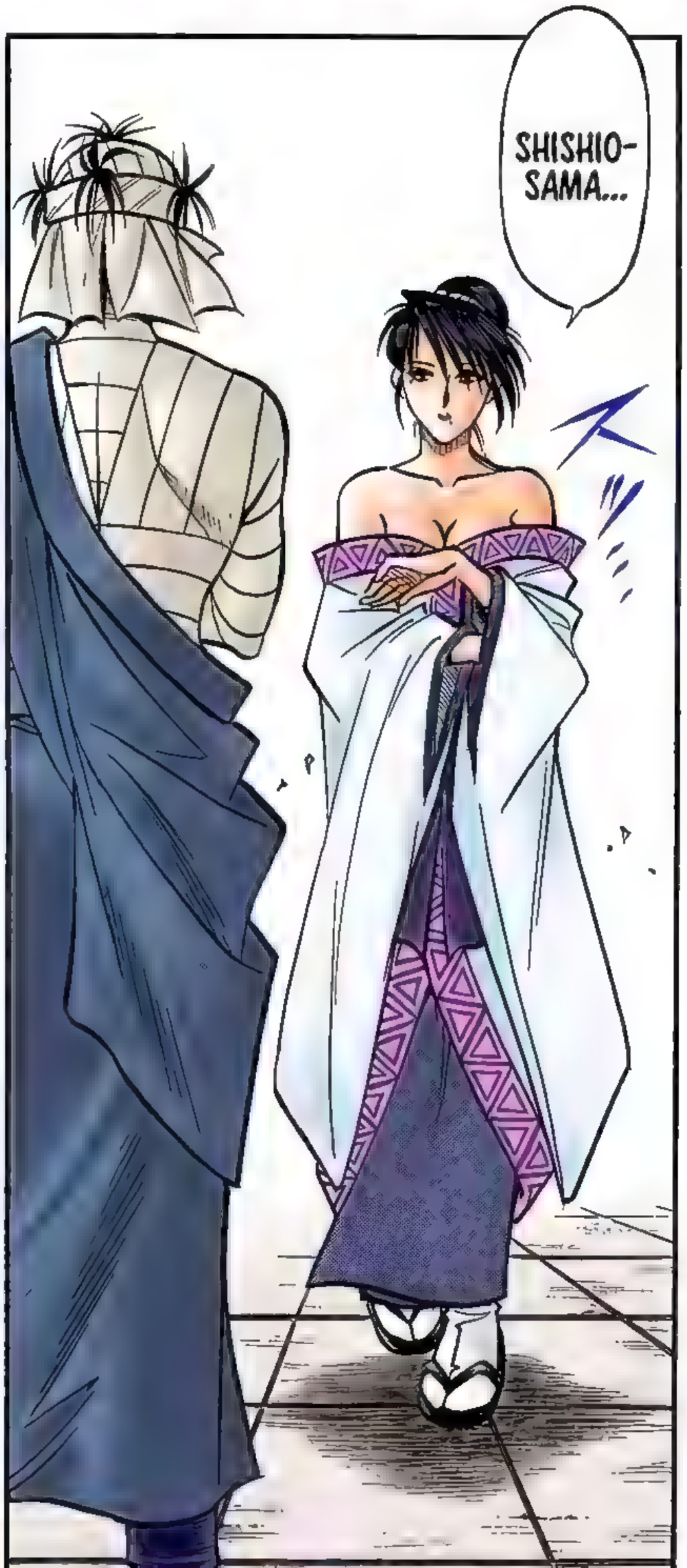
THOSE WHO KNOW CALL IT "PETROLEUM." IN MORE *ADVANCED* NATIONS, IT'S REPLACING COAL AS A POWER-SOURCE.






PLEASE, IN THE HEAT OF BATTLE...

...DON'T FORGET ...
...TO CARE FOR YOUR-SELF.


SHISHIO-SAMA...

OH...

FIFTEEN MINUTES ...

...IS ALL IT WILL TAKE.

YOU DON'T LOOK MUCH BETTER YOURSELF.

CAN YOU REALLY FIGHT LIKE THAT?

YOU'RE WOUNDED.

HEH... FAIR ENOUGH.

NEITHER OF US HAS ANY REASON TO HOLD BACK.

WHEN ŌKUBO TOSHIMICHI WAS ASSASSIN-ATED?

WHEN HIMURA KENSHIN BECAME RUROUNI?

WHEN SHISHIO MAKOTO WAS ENGULFED IN FLAMES?

WHEN THESE TWO MEN BECAME HITOKIRI, THEY WERE CURSED TO BATTLE.

NO. LONG BEFORE THEN.

WHEN DID THE BATTLE BEGIN...?

AND NOW...

THERE MUST BE A WINNER!!

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EDITED BY: KOJOZERO

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第百三十七幕「糧」

HYOHHH!!

ガッ
ゴキ

ベキィ

GOOD. HE'S WOUNDED, BUT HE'S GOT HIS STRENGTH.

ﾊｧﾊｧ…

第百三十七幕（だいひゃくさんじゅうななまく）「糧（かて）」

和月伸宏

Act 137—Fuel

!?!

THE FIRST SECRET BLOW...

AH! THAT WAS...

HOMURA DAMA, "BURNING SOUL"!!

「炎霊（ほむら だま）」!!!

DID YOU BURN THE TIP OF YOUR SWORD WITH FRICTION AGAINST THE SHEATH...?!

!

HEH.

NO. IF HE WERE JUST PRODUCING FLAME BY FRICTION, BATTŌJUTSU SHOULD DO THE SAME.

SOMETHING *ELSE* LIT THIS FLAME!!

SHAAAAH!!

CALM DOWN. DON'T BE FOOLED!

THE FLAME ITSELF CAN'T DAMAGE MUCH!

WORK ON DEFLECTING *THAT!!*

CONCENTRATE ON THE BLADE!

WHAT—?

SHAAAH!!

KENSHIN!!

SHISHIO-SAMA!!

HOW DO YOU LIKE MY BURNING SOUL, BATTŌSAI?

HAVE YOU EVER KNOWN PAIN FROM BOTH SLASHING *AND* BURNING, BEFORE?

THE NATURE OF YOUR HOMURA DAMA IS CLEAR.

!

AND YET, DESPITE THE SHARPNESS OF YOUR SWING... THE WOUNDS AREN'T VERY DEEP.

ゲリ ゲリ

NOT REALLY ...

WHAT IS BURNING...

THE FRICTION FROM THE BLADE IS ONLY FOR IGNITION.

THE BLADE ITSELF ISN'T BURNING.

...IS THE SUBSTANCE YOUR SAW-LIKE BLADE HAS SHAVED OFF THOSE YOU'VE KILLED...

HUMAN FLESH!!

!

BUT TO CALL IT A "SAW-LIKE BLADE" IS NOT QUITE FAIR.

THIS IS A RELATIVE OF YOUR SAKABATŌ, "SHINUCHI"!

HE DISCOVERED SHISHIO-SAMA'S SECRET WITH JUST ONE BLOW?

HIMURA BATTŌSAI IS NOT A MAN TO TAKE LIGHTLY!

VERY GOOD.

YOU SHOW THE SAME INSIGHT NOW AS WHEN YOU DESTROYED MY SHIP.

BUT IF ONE CHIPS IT FROM THE BEGINNING, WITHOUT COMPROMISING THE SHARPNESS, ONE CREATES A SWORD THAT WILL SLASH ALWAYS WITH THE SAME SHARPNESS.

ANY GREAT BLADE WILL CHIP AND GROW STICKY WITH USE.

I MAKE TRUE IN MY SWORD WHAT IS TRUE IN LIFE.

THE FLESH OF THE WEAK IS THE FOOD OF THE STRONG.

THIS FINAL STAGE SATSUJIN SWORD, THE PEERLESS "MUGENJIN," CREATED BY ARAI SHAKKŪ...

...USES THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE IT'S KILLED AS A SOURCE OF ITS POWER. THIS IS MY FIRST SECRET BLOW.

SAME HITOKIRI PAST... AND WIELDING SWORDS MADE BY THE SAME SMITH. BUT THEIR SOULS ARE COMPLETELY OPPOSITE.

DON'T WORRY.

KENSHIN ?

THE TRUTH CANNOT BE DECIDED BY BATTLE. SŌJIRŌ HAS BEEN TOLD THE SAME.

WHY NOT PROVE YOUR RIGHTEOUSNESS WITH YOUR BLADE, THEN?

YOU SEEM OFFENDED.

...ALL JAPAN WILL BE FUEL FOR YOUR FIRE!!

BUT IF YOU ARE NOT STOPPED HERE...

WELL...

...I CAN'T DENY THAT.

STRIKE, SHISHIO MAKOTO!!

SO FAST!!

飛天御剣流

HITEN MITSURUGI-RYŪ...

龍翔閃!!

RYŪSHŌSEN "DRAGON FLIGHT"!!

SHK

I SAW THAT MOVE AT SHINGETSU VILLAGE.

YOU CAN'T STOP ME WITH A MOVE I'VE SEEN.

...YOUR FUEL TO MY FIRE?

NOW, BATTŌSAI, WILL YOU ADD...

KENSHIN !!

THIS WAS DONE BY KOJOZERO SCANS

EDITED BY: KOJOZERO

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第百三十八幕「摂理」

ザシュ
ザシュ
ザシュ

第百三十八幕「摂理」

...N...
NH...

"...AND THE WEAK DIE."

"IN THIS WORLD, THE STRONG LIVE..."

THOSE WORDS...

THOSE WORDS...

...WERE MY GIFT TO SŌJIRŌ. BUT THEY DESCRIBE...

...FAR MORE THAN SWORDS.

...ARE A LAW OF NATURE.

THE MEN IN THE GOVERNMENT ARE WEAKER THAN I, AND SO HAVE NO RIGHT TO POWER.

MY CONQUEST OF THIS NATION...

...ARE TENDERS OF THAT FLAME.

NOT WHILE THE STRONGEST...

THE WEAK HAVE A DUTY TO HELP THE STRONG TO LIVE.

THOSE UNWORTHY OF DOING SO HAVE NO REASON TO LIVE.

...IS A KIND OF PROVIDENCE!

CAN'T YOU SEE THAT FIGHTING NATURE'S LAW LEADS ONLY TO FAILURE?

AS HITOKIRI, YOU YOURSELF FLOURISHED IN THE BLOOD STORMS OF THE BAKUMATSU.

THOSE PEOPLE YOU THINK OF AS "FOOD" SURVIVED THOSE SAME BLOOD STORMS, AND ARE FINALLY LIVING IN PEACE!

NO!

THIS ONE CANNOT ALLOW YOU TO BRING THAT CHAOS BACK, NO MATTER *WHAT* YOUR LOGIC.

NO LIVES HAVE A "DUTY" TO BE LOST, NOT FOR MEN, AND NOT FOR A CAUSE.

IT IS A *LAW.*

IT'S NOT "LOGIC."

THIS ONE DOES NOT SUBMIT TO SUCH A LAW!!

...HIS BODY IS JUST NOT GONNA MAKE IT.

ドッ

NOBODY WILL EVER CORRUPT HIS SOUL... BUT IF HE KEEPS PUSHING HIMSELF LIKE THIS...

NEVER YIELDING. AS USUAL.

YOUR STUBBORNNESS IS AS UNRELENTING AS EVER.

A PITY THAT, WITH SUCH STUPIDITY, THE TOWERING NAME OF HITOKIRI BATTŌSAI MUST FALL TO EARTH.

...THOUGH YOUR HEART DOES NOT.

YOUR MIND ACCEPTS IT...

...CHOOSE INSTEAD A DEATH OF GLORY!

RATHER THAN LIVING A LIFE OF MUNDANITY...

...IN THE HISTORY THAT I MAKE!

THEN YOUR NAME, AT LEAST, WILL LIVE ON...

THIS ONE HAS NO INTENTION OF HAVING HIS NAME IN YOUR HISTORY.

RATHER, HE WOULD LEAVE IT IN A RECORD OF PEACE!!

SHISHIO-SAMA!!

HYOH!!

YOU JUST WON'T LISTEN, WILL YOU.

YOU LEAVE ME NO CHOICE!

ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, YOU *WILL* FALL!

!!!

NO!

NOT YET, YOU DON'T!

I TOLD YOU TO FALL GRACE-FULLY...

HIS GAUNTLET ...

IT SMELLS OF...

...GUNPOWDER...

KENSHIN !!

THE SECOND ...

紅蓮傷!!

ぐれんかいな

GUREN KAINA!!

SECRET ...

KEN...

...SHIN
...

...ARE YOU DEAD AT LAST, THEN?

NO AMAKAKERU RYŪ NO HIRAMEKI, EITHER.

FEH! YOU DISAPPOINT ME.

NINE MINUTES, 53 SECONDS.

SO THERE WAS NO NEED TO WORRY, AFTER ALL.

MAGNIFICENT, MASTER!! WHO ELSE WOULD EVER HAVE THOUGHT...

GUREN KAINA!! GUNPOWDER IN YOUR GAUNTLET!!

JUST SEE THAT THIS IS CLEANED.

SILENCE, COWARD!

YES, M'LORD.

SAITŌ !!

!!

LETTING DOWN YOUR GUARD AFTER FINISHING ONE WOUNDED MAN?

SHISHIO MAKOTO... I'VE COME FOR YOUR HEAD!!

SUCH ARROGANCE ALWAYS HAS BEEN YOUR WEAKNESS.

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